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SUMMARY OF PROGRESS THIS REPORTING QUARTER TOWARD  
ACCOMPLISHING ANNUAL OBJECTIVES

(1) DIRECT SERVICE OBJECTIVES:

Objective #1 is to assist low income residents in the various colonias to obtain section 306C grants for the necessary plumbing work and connection charges needed to hook up to existing systems. I did start work on this objective this quarter, however I have not received any feedback on the promoting that I performed. This coming quarter I plan to visit with colonia residents and help them fill out the applications and make sure they are complete.

Objective #2 is to assist water associations with their applications for funding under the RECD Water and Waste Disposal Program. I have been working with the following water associations : 1) Anthony Water and Sanitation District application for a waste water treatment plant, 2) Berino MDWCA colonia pre-application for a water system improvements project, 3) Village of Columbus application for a water system installation, 4) La Union pre-application for the installation of a water system, 5) Village of Magdalena pre-application for water system and sewage treatment improvements, 6) City of Sunland Park, pre-application for wastewater improvements project, 7) City of Truth or Consequences pre-application for water system improvements project.

Objective #3 is to meet with leaders, and group organizations. This quarter I have continued to make as many contacts with group organizations, board members of the various water associations listed above and city officials.

(2) AMERICORPS MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE:

Objective #1 is to be actively involved with the Interagency Policy Task Force for Rural and Urban Development. The goal of this group of individuals from various agencies is to develop a comprehensive action plan to improve the quality of life of colonia residents. I am presently serving on two committees, one on health concerns and the other on economic development. In the committee on health concerns we are focusing on environmental problems that could adversely effect the health of citizens residing along the border. Also, we are working towards increasing awareness and document community concerns regarding

environmental quality and identify specific solutions to incorporate into the committee's action plan.

(3) COMMUNITY BUILDING/STRENGTHENING OBJECTIVES:

Objective #1 is to assist the colonia of Desert Air to organize as a non-profit corporation with enough members to have a feasible water system. I have assisted the community with their Article of Incorporation and their Bylaws. The community has organized as a non-profit corporation and is in the process of applying for funding under the RECD Water and Waste Disposal Program which will benefit 450 residents that have no running water.

Objective #2 is to assist one of the rural areas that submitted an Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community application perform on of its objectives in its strategic plan. I have contacted Jesus Prieto, Planning Director for the City of Sunland Park, NM, who has provided me with the Empowerment Zone & Enterprise Community Strategic Plan. I have been reviewing the plans and expect to start working on this objective in the next quarter know that I have the necessary training.

PRIMARY CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED THIS QUARTER

Local lack of interest after not getting EZ/EC funding.  
Need grant writing training.

NATIONAL IDENTITY ACTIVITIES THIS QUARTER

Attended a one week training at Memphis, TN where I participated in classes, group discussion, and workshops related to community development. In addition, I gained knowledge in the areas of community development roles and approaches to community development.

Volunteer with the Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity with a project to build six new homes for Las Cruces Families. I was a go-fer and helped construct one home.

NMI

# AmeriCorps\*USA

## Operating Site Quarterly Report

Date this report was completed: April 11, 1995

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Name of person completing this report: Don Montoya

Position of person completing this report: AmeriCorps Worker

Operating Site ID # (Please refer to attached list): Grants-RECD Housing and Water/Sewer

Telephone number: (505) 287-7941

Fax number: 505-285-4297

e-mail address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-93)

**FAX TRANSMITTAL**

# of pages = 7

To <u>John Thomas</u>	From <u>Don Montoya</u>
Dept./Agency <u>State RECD</u>	Phone # <u>287-7941</u>
Fax # <u>(505) 761-4976</u>	Fax # <u>(505) 285-4297</u>

Corporation for National Service  
Operating Site Quarterly Report

1. Operating site name: GRANTS RECD

2. Program name: GRANTS- AmeriCorps

3. Corporation grantee name: New Mexico State Office of RECD

4. Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies:  
 First Quarter (10/1—12/31)    
 Second Quarter (1/1—3/31)    
 Third Quarter (4/1—6/30)    
 Fourth Quarter (7/1—9/30)

5. On what date did your AmeriCorps Members begin service or training? 11/1/94

6. In the table below indicate (a) the number of full and part-time AmeriCorps Members that were enrolled as of the last day of the reporting quarter and (b) the total cumulative service hours completed by the AmeriCorps Members as of the last day of the reporting quarter.

	Number of AmeriCorps Members	Total Cumulative Hours or Required Service
Full-time	1	1700
Part-time		

7. Please provide estimates of the following:  
 (a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: 0

(b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: 0

Primary Accomplishments this Quarter: (In detail, describe your central activities, project milestones, and most important "things gotten done" this quarter.)

Of the 8 rural communities I have been working with since the outset, two are responding according to community assessments.

RECD programs were introduced primarily at the first meetings with the rural communities. We are glad to report that applications have been received by each community.

Some degree of success has been achieved in promoting the guaranteed rural housing loans. Bank personnel, realtors, and contractors were invited to meet with Eric Schrieter of the State Office in late March. This meeting generated interest in working with one another toward a seldom used program.

Communities are moving toward empowering themselves to seek funds from all sources that will provide services to their specific villages.

#S OF MEETINGS

# OF GRANTS/LOANS

Unique successes or "great stories": (Briefly describe unique and/or exceptional successes, program highlights, or "great stories" about AmeriCorps people, projects or partnerships that occurred this quarter.)

In one particular village a core group has been established to start setting up an infrastructure and working toward seeking water and waste water funds along with establishing a fire department. Agencies have been contacted and sources have been identified which can assist the community.

Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives: (Briefly describe how accomplishments this quarter relate to achieving each of your three sets of annual outcome objectives: (1) Direct Service Objectives, (2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives, and (3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives. Where available, describe evaluation data that indicate progress during the past quarter toward achieving your annual outcomes. Summarize activities related to establishing an evaluation system or conducting your local evaluation (e.g., instruments developed, data collection plans established, etc.).

(1) Direct Service Objectives:

Initially the Grants office of RECD was set up to take advantage of established former Farmer Home Administration programs. The AmeriCorps worker would work toward each community applying for loans and grants through these resources.

Community needs were soon found to vary substantially and AmeriCorps worker assistance would not be available as the need required.

The focus changed to creating a working unit in each community (infrastructure). It was immediately assessed that many of the communities had no organizations which could address their needs. This abrupt change for many of the villagers appeared to be a long drawn out process.

The time spent by the Grants office is beginning to show fruitful results. Individuals from far out rural areas are coming into the office, and we are assisting in the empowerment of the local governments. Both State, Federal, and private resources are beginning to respond to the needs in the outlying areas.

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(2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

1. Create an infrastructure in each community so they can help themselves.
2. Generate resources focused on community needs
3. Establish a network to maintain their goals and direction.
4. Establish and maintain a strong local government

(3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

- Create a link with other governmental structures
- Generate a tax base for the community
- Create a strong local government

**Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter:** (Report on problems resolved and unresolved, obstacles to achieving program objectives, significant sources of delay, program elements not meeting expectations, events or incidents that caused concern.)

In working toward creating an economically self-supporting entity appeared almost impossible. Local government was almost non-existent or non-functional for a long period. We found in many situations "Do Not Disturb" signs upon entry. Progress was almost an impossible dream.

Patience has paid off, fruition is coming about. We are beginning to see the progress of positive thinking being generated in some of the communities. We hope others areas will be forthcoming.

**Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs this Quarter:**

Attached to this quarterly report form is a separate Training and Technical Assistance Request form. Should you have training or technical assistance needs, complete the attached form and submit it along with your quarterly report. It will be directed to the Training and Technical Assistance Office. Technical assistance is available in many program-related areas, including, among others, organizational development and management issues, fundraising, diversity, and best practices in site-specific skills.

**National Identity Activities this Quarter:** (Report on activities this quarter that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. Examples could include new uniforms, signage or publicity materials; projects with other AmeriCorps programs; training members in national skill areas (communication/conflict resolution or CPR/first aid); participation in national service projects (HIV/AIDS awareness training, environmental audits, or citizenship education); graduations or swearing-in ceremonies, use of national recruitment, use of AmeriCorps Member Handbook.)

Qor rural communities do not foster or promote anything of personal recognition. AmeriCorps is mentioned but has little or no meaning. Area newspapers do not carry much information on happenings "out back."

At some point we will get the news media involved when a major breakthrough is achieved.

**Changes in Program Organization or Key Staff Positions during this Quarter:** (Report staff turnover in management or supervisory positions, changes in partner/sponsor relationships, changes in board membership, etc.)

No comment

NM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Rural Economic and Community Development  
405 E. Florida  
Deming, NM 88030  
(505)546-8885

FAX (505)546-0038

DATE: April 7, 1995

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 08

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) TO:

NAME: John Thomas

FAX NUMBER: (505)761-4976

TRANSMITTED FROM:

NAME: Lawrence Garcia

FAX NUMBER: (505)546-0038

NOTES: Quarterly Report  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Corporation for National Service  
Operating Site Quarterly Report**

1. Operating site name: Deming, New Mexico

2. Program name: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Corporation grantee name: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies:

First Quarter  
(10/1—12/31)

Second Quarter  
(1/1—3/31)

Third Quarter  
(4/1—6/30)

Fourth Quarter  
(7/1—9/30)

5. On what date did your AmeriCorps Members begin service or training? October 18, 1995

6. In the table below indicate (a) the number of full and part-time AmeriCorps Members that were enrolled as of the last day of the reporting quarter and (b) the total cumulative service hours completed by the AmeriCorps Members as of the last day of the reporting quarter.

	Number of AmeriCorps Members	Total Cumulative Hours or Required Service
Full-time	2	900 approx.
Part-time	0	0

7. Please provide estimates of the following:

(a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers

who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: NONE

(a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps member volunteers

who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: NONE

(b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed

by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: NONE

Operating Site ID #:

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**Primary Accomplishments this Quarter:** (In detail, describe your central activities, project milestones, and most important "things gotten done" this quarter.)

CDBG Survey -- I helped the City of Deming fill out 150 income surveys. The City of Deming is considering applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for general neighborhood improvements, including street and sidewalk improvements, recreation and parks, blight removed and housing rehabilitation in the Bell School neighborhood.

Grant Writing Workshop -- We started the workshop with a few ice breaking activities. We covered everything from the basic principles of proposal writing, such as distinguishing between goals and objectives, to developing budgets. Most of the 20 AmeriCorps members that attended will use these skills throughout their term as well as their future careers.

Back-Flow Prevention for Water Systems -- This training seminar provided me with additional skills and knowledge to help assist the national effort to safeguard the drinking water of Rural America.

Attended Training conference in Memphis, Tennessee -- This course was titled Community Development Process and Methods Training Course. I learned a basic understanding of community development principles, practices, theories and methods. I had much group interaction with local situations. In addition, I now have a greater understanding of the USDA reporting policies and procedures. This will allow me to work with greater effectiveness and efficiency.

Operating Site ID #:

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**Unique successes or "great stories":** (Briefly describe unique and/or exceptional successes, program highlights, or "great stories" about AmeriCorps people, projects or partnerships that occurred this quarter.)

NONE TO REPORT AT THIS TIME

**Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:**  
(Briefly describe how accomplishments this quarter relate to achieving each of your three sets of annual outcome objectives: (1) Direct Service Objectives, (2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives, and (3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives. Where available, describe evaluation data that indicate progress during the past quarter toward achieving your annual outcomes. Summarize activities related to establishing an evaluation system or conducting your local evaluation (e.g., instruments developed, data collection plans established, etc.).

**(1) Direct Service Objectives:**

I have made 4 contacts with the cities officials and have met personally with them. I have informed them that I am available to assist the community in any way that I can. They said they would keep in touch and let me know of anything that I may be of assistance with.

I have also been attending the local town meeting regularly. I am becoming familiar with the cities key people and their different attitudes with their communities, as far as the meetings go.

**(2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:**

I have made key contacts in the Hidalgo county having to do with the Federal Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) Initiative. I also set up a meeting with the technical assistance team for April 10, 1995 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss this in further detail. I will have more on this on my next quarterly report.

**(3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:**

On April 25, 1995 our cluster planned a clean-up of a community youth center. We plan on many of the local people from the community to help participate with the clean-up of the youth center.

Operating Site ID #:

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**Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter: (Report on problems resolved and unresolved, obstacles to achieving program objectives, significant sources of delay, program elements not meeting expectations, events or incidents that caused concern.)**

I have been working with the Peoples Water Co-op in order to get a new community well built. This system has been designed and funded from the State. The obstacle that is holding the project up is the water rights. The current well has only 6.35 acres-feet. The new water system would require an additional 7.0 acres-feet in order to accomodate the families in need of clean drinking water. This next quarter I hope to get this problem resolved and continue with the building of the community water system. I have been in contact with the Engineer of this system and he has told me that they are currently looking into the possibility of transferring nearby water rights that are located near the proposed water well sight.

**National Identity Activities this Quarter:** (Report on activities this quarter that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. Examples could include new uniforms, signage or publicity materials; projects with other AmeriCorps programs; training members in national skill areas (communication/conflict resolution or CPR/first aid); participation in national service projects (HIV/AIDS awareness training, environmental audits, or citizenship education); graduations or swearing-in ceremonies, use of national recruitment, use of AmeriCorps Member Handbook.)

Training in Memphis, Tennessee. Explained more in detail on the first page of this report.

**Changes in Program Organization or Key Staff Positions during this Quarter:** (Report staff turnover in management or supervisory positions, changes in partner/sponsor relationships, changes in board membership, etc.)

NONE TO REPORT AT THIS TIME.

**Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs this Quarter:**

*Attached to this quarterly report form is a separate Training and Technical Assistance Request form. Should you have training or technical assistance needs, complete the attached form and submit it along with your quarterly report. It will be directed to the Training and Technical Assistance Office. Technical assistance is available in many program-related areas, including, among others, organizational development and management issues, fundraising, diversity, and best practices in site-specific skills.*

MM

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION  
305 WEST HILL  
ROOM 162, FEDERAL BUILDING  
GALLUP, NEW MEXICO 87301

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE 4/11/95

ATTENTION: John Thomas

PAGES SENT 8

OFFICE PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

TELEFAX NO. \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

US Here is Stamp Quarterly Report

FROM: Gallup C/O

TELEFAX NO. \_\_\_\_\_

(505) 722-4357  
OFFICE PHONE NO.

(505) 722-0847

VERIFY NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DISPATCHED BY mm

Corporation for National Service  
Operating Site Quarterly Report

1. Operating site name: REC'D OFFICE - GALLUP, NEW MEXICO
2. Program name: NATIVE AMERICAN OUTREACH
3. Corporation grantee name: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies:  
 First Quarter (10/1—12/31)    
  Second Quarter (1/1—3/31)    
  Third Quarter (4/1—6/30)    
  Fourth Quarter (7/1—9/30)
5. On what date did your AmeriCorps Members begin service or training? 11/2/94

6. In the table below indicate (a) the number of full and part-time AmeriCorps Members that were enrolled as of the last day of the reporting quarter and (b) the total cumulative service hours completed by the AmeriCorps Members as of the last day of the reporting quarter.

	Number of AmeriCorps Members	Total Cumulative Hours or Required Service	
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
Full-time	1	477	361
Part-time			

7. Please provide estimates of the following:
  - (a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: 0
  - (b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: 0

Primary Accomplishments this Quarter: (In detail, describe your central activities, project milestones, and most important "things gotten done" this quarter.)

SECOND QUARTER REPORT: Native American Outreach

DESCRIPTION:

I have presented information on RECD 502 and 504 programs at 11 meetings on the Navajo reservation, throughout McKinley county. The presentations have either been at the monthly chapter meeting or planning meeting. The information has been presented to community leaders, members and seniors at the following communities on the Navajo reservation.....

Breadsprings Chapter  
Churchrock Chapter  
Standing Rock Chapter  
Iyanbito Chapter  
Ojo Encino Chapter  
Whitehorse Chapter  
Twin Lakes Chapter  
Chichiltah Chapter  
Red Rock Chapter  
Ramah Chapter  
Pinevale Chapter

Our office is currently working applications for 504 Grant funds from Breadsprings, Iyanbito, and Whitehorse chapters as well as the pueblo of Zuni. Four of these applications are waiting for funding and 3 more are waiting for home inspections by the county supervisor.

QUANTITATIVE RESULTS:

11 presentations given to Navajo Communities  
1 504 grant approved in the Breadsprings Chapter  
6 504 grant applications awaiting funding

Operating Site ID #:

SALLUP, NEW MEXICO

Unique successes or "great stories": (Briefly describe unique and/or exceptional successes, program highlights, or "great stories" about AmeriCorps people, projects or partnerships that occurred this quarter.)

ELLEN HALEY, OF THE BREAOSPRINGS CHAPTER, IS  
THE FIRST SD4 GRANT RECIPIENT <sup>IN MCKINLEY COUNTY</sup> ~~TO~~ TO BE  
CONTACTED DIRECTLY THROUGH THE AMERICORPS PROGRAM.

**Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:**  
(Briefly describe how accomplishments this quarter relate to achieving each of your three sets of annual outcome objectives: (1) Direct Service Objectives, (2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives, and (3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives. Where available, describe evaluation data that indicate progress during the past quarter toward achieving your annual outcomes. Summarize activities related to establishing an evaluation system or conducting your local evaluation (e.g., instruments developed, data collection plans established, etc.).

**(1) Direct Service Objectives:**

AT THIS POINT, I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ALMOST  $\frac{1}{3}$  OF MY DIRECT SERVICE OBJECTIVE. THAT IS, TO RECEIVE AN AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 1 APPLICATION FROM EACH OF THE 21 NAVAJO CHAPTERS AND THE PUEBLO OF ZUNI. THE THOUGHT BEHIND THIS OBJECTIVE IS TO ESTABLISH AT LEAST 1 SUCCESS STORY IN EACH COMMUNITY, SO THAT RECD'S PROGRAMS CAN CONTINUE TO SPREAD IN THESE AREAS BY WORD OF MOUTH.

**(2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:**

**(3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:**

COMMUNITIES (11 SO FAR) ARE BEING INFORMED AND DIRECTED TO PROGRAMS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM THROUGH RECD AND OTHER SOURCES.

Operating Site ID #:

**Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter:** (Report on problems resolved and unresolved, obstacles to achieving program objectives, significant sources of delay, program elements not meeting expectations, events or incidents that caused concern.)

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE HAS BEEN TO CONTINUE WORKING ON MY OBJECTIVES EVEN THOUGH THE RESULTS INITIALLY WERE VERY SLOW IN COMING AND ARE NOW STARTING TO PICK-UP.

**Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs this Quarter:**

Attached to this quarterly report form is a separate Training and Technical Assistance Request form. Should you have training or technical assistance needs, complete the attached form and submit it along with your quarterly report. It will be directed to the Training and Technical Assistance Office. Technical assistance is available in many program-related areas, including, among others, organizational development and management issues, fundraising, diversity, and best practices in site-specific skills.

**National Identity Activities this Quarter:** (Report on activities this quarter that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. Examples could include new uniforms, signage or publicity materials; projects with other AmeriCorps programs; training members in national skill areas (communication/conflict resolution or CPR/first aid); participation in national service projects (HIV/AIDS awareness training, environmental audits, or citizenship education); graduations or swearing-in ceremonies, use of national recruitment, use of AmeriCorps Member Handbook.)

- NONE -

**Changes in Program Organization or Key Staff Positions during this Quarter:** (Report staff turnover in management or supervisory positions, changes in partner/sponsor relationships, changes in board membership, etc.)

- NONE -

WA

**AMERICORPS QUARTERLY REPORT:  
NATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR THE TIME PERIOD  
10-17-94 TO 4-17-95**

**TO: Mary McBride  
Rural Economic and Community Development  
Wenatchee, Washington**

**FROM: Mary Ann Beeson- Americorps Member Grant County  
Grant County Community Action Council  
Moses Lake, Washington**

**RE: Quarterly Report**

organizing a community effort to paint the emergency shelter for the homeless serving Grant County. At the being of my term of service I worked with case workers that provided services to a large number of homeless individuals in our county. I was aware of the physical condition of the housing units that serve as a shelter and that repairs, painting, and donations were sorely needed. I, along with a case worker who serves the homeless, presented information on the picture of homelessness in Grant County to several community service clubs in our area. By this effort we were able to enlist the volunteer help of three of these clubs to paint the shelter units.

Having the units painted was in itself a wonderful accomplishment, however what has been even better is what happened after the task was completed. By informing the community that homelessness is a significant issue in Grant County, programs that serve the homeless saw several positive results occur. A community club offered to help families at the shelter buy Christmas presents for their children, another asked that we prepare a "Wish List" of things the shelter needed so that their members could purchase items the emergency housing program could not afford, donations of furniture and household items were offered at a higher rate than had previously occurred, and a university student organization encompassing Washington and Idaho selected the emergency shelter as the site to serve during their Spring Break 1995. Forty university students completed the housing unit repairs and yard work that needed to be done. I believe that my ability to participate in the initial effort to make a difference for the homeless of Grant County helped to serve as a catalyst for the unanticipated, but highly beneficial help received.

## **SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARD ACCOMPLISHING ANNUAL OBJECTIVES:**

Note: The plan of work developed for the Americorps USDA member serving Grant County was developed according to the Americorps Program Planning document provided in October 1994. In this document it was stated that Americorps USDA would have objectives covering only community service and community building activities. As this process was followed by Grant County, direct service and Americorps member development activities are discussed but were not directly described as objectives in the submitted workplan.

### **1) Direct Service Objectives:**

Direct services to the community through the Americorps position have thus far been accomplished in the following ways. The Americorps member has been directly involved in efforts that helped the community: 1) renovate and upgrade the physical conditions of emergency housing units serving Grant County, 2) provide a Young Parent Achievement Award by serving to fundraise for prizes, write nominee questionnaires, interview nominated young parents, and present the award, 3) send Grant County high school students to the "Expanding Your Horizons-Math and Science Careers for Girls" conference in Spokane by serving as a chaperon, and 4) speaking to parents and high school students on the issue of teenage pregnancy. The EZ/EC proposal identified direct services to be provided to the community by a Community Resource and Funding Alternative Center. As the Center is not functioning at this time, the Americorps position has served as a means to implement some of these services. For example, those that related to parenting, human development, and providing funding information.

### **2) Americorps Member Development Objectives:**

The function of the Americorps position in Grant County and types of information the member should receive additional training in for maximal effectiveness during their term has been explored. The areas identified were: fundraising, alternative economic development tools and strategies, and housing issues. As Grant County is classified as "economically distressed" and there is a severe shortage of affordable housing, we feel these areas require more in depth knowledge. This reporting period the Americorps member has been trained both on site and through special sessions in: small business development, grantseeking and grantwriting, and microloan lending as an economic development tool. The bulk of Americorps member development will, however, occur during the next quarter as several conferences and training sessions are being offered in Eastern Washington from the last week in April to the middle of May.

### 3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

The focus of the community service and community building objectives described in the workplan for Grant County was the establishment of a Community Resource and Funding Alternative Center in the nominated enterprise community BNA known as Larson. Up to this point in time considerable progress has been made toward realizing this focus. As was pointed out in the workplan the process for development of the Resource Center would change depending on whether or not the Grant County EZ/EC proposal was funded. As it was not chosen for funding, researching and identifying alternative sources for funding the Center's proposed activities became a main activity of the Americorps member.

During this reporting period Objective A of the workplan (laying a foundation for implementing the EZ/EC proposal) was accomplished. The process toward completing Objective B (administering a community needs survey) is proceeding at a steady pace. As was stated previously, a pilot survey was distributed and the results received analyzed, which has allowed for the refinement of the full scale survey before its actual distribution. Objectives C and D of the workplan were devised with an assumption of funding availability for the development of the Resource Center. As this was not the case several alternative measure for establishing and implementing proposed activities of the Center have been pursued. The Americorps member worked to identify potential private and corporate interests in the proposed Center. Discussions were held with The Housing Authority of Grant County regarding the location and operation of the Resource Center in the Larson BNA, in which this organization has a strong presence through office location and affordable housing provision. At this time the best strategy for providing funding to establish the Resource Center seems to be pursuing an Implementation Grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program. The Housing Authority of Grant County is interested in leading this community effort, of which the Americorps member will participate.

Community building activities have been pursued by presenting information to community groups on alternative funding resources, assisting two groups in identify potential funding resources, and by participating in community partnerships aimed at improving Grant County (such as, the Family Policy Network). Considerable progress has been made towards: coordinating and conducting a community workshop on grantwriting and funding availability for non-profits, as well as, convening parties interested in microloan lending. Dates and times are basically all that remains to be finalized.

### **PRIMARY CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED:**

The challenges I have encountered thus far as an Americorps member fall into two general categories. One simply being that the purpose and existence of the USDA Americorps program was fairly unknown in the rural community I serve. The basic challenge was to inform people of the purpose and function of the Americorps program and why the Department of Agriculture was involved. As the program was a new initiative it was understandable that unfamiliarity was an issue. I believe that this challenge has been, for the most part, resolved. I have been able to discuss my role as an Americorps member with numerous individuals and organizations within our area and feel that what is being done through this program is better understood. The second challenge I have encountered is that of finding the resources to carry out proposal components. This has delayed a portion of the community building objectives, however I feel comfortable that progress is being made and appropriate strategies are being taken to implement the objectives. Considerable information and effort has been made on the part of the Americorps Washington state director, Mary McBride, to aid our community and myself in overcoming any problems that have developed.

### **NATIONAL IDENTITY ACTIVITIES:**

Activities that fostered the national identity of Americorps have occurred through the Grant County position by discussions the member has had with community members, groups, and local media members regarding the purpose of the Americorps program in general and the activities occurring in Grant County specifically.

### **CHANGES IN PROGRAM ORGANIZATION OR KEY STAFF POSITIONS:**

Changes within the organization of Grant County Community Action Council this reporting period involved a change of supervisors for the Americorps position. John Poling, the deputy director and supervisor for the position left the agency at the end of November 1994. Cherie Beuckman, the executive director, is currently acting as supervisor for the Americorps member.

**AMERICORPS QUATERLY REPORT**

**From: Christine Kwan  
Coalition for the Homeless  
Yakima County, Washington**

**Cluster: Wenatchee**

## QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL 1995

*Christina P. Kwan*

### **PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER:**

This has been a very busy and an exciting quarter. I attended the RE CD AmeriCorps Training in Memphis, TN. It was a great opportunity to meet other members from across the country and to compare success stories and concerns we all seem to have in common. The hotel we stayed in seemed to be located at the end of the airport runway and we had to duck every time a plane landed or lifted off. It added greatly to the sense of adventure.

Upon my return to the Yakima Valley I was asked to help the Housing Foundation conduct some research on approximating the number of farmworkers employed during peak harvest seasons to be better able to estimate the need for housing.

The rest of my time I have kept extremely busy assisting Mr. Bullamore in arranging a bus tour through the city of Yakima to view the accomplishments of the many housing organizations in Yakima. We invited boardmembers, bankers, participants and other interested parties, but sadly not very many people showed up.

At this time I have just finished with the organization of a one day workshop/conference on Farmworker Housing Issues. The agenda entails such topics as cost and function of various different kinds of housing (i.e. mobile homes vs. permanent structures) and other related topics.

### **UNIQUE SUCCESSES OR "GREAT STORIES":**

The housing situation in the Yakima Valley is extremely grim. The little bit of housing that is available is financially far out of the reach of most families, farmworkers or otherwise. Fortunately there are many agencies that are trying to address the issues and are able to report some success stories. I have finally been able to identify at least two small projects I would like to address and maybe complete by the end of August. The need to inform the general public about the existence of these organizations could be met by hosting an "InfoFair" in the Sunnyside/Grandview area. All the agencies that are currently located in Yakima, but are able to serve the entire valley could send a representative and give out information about their agencies - how to apply, what they do, etc. Many people are simply not aware that such resources and agencies exist.

My second project is directly related to the first. After investigating the matter, I discovered that we need a written, centralized index of all the organizations that deal either directly or indirectly with housing issues. I envision a one page resume from each agency explaining what they do, how to apply, who would qualify, and their mission etc. I feel that such information would greatly benefit many people who are currently living in severely substandard

conditions.

### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS THIS REPORTING QUARTER TOWARD ACCOMPLISHING ANNUAL OBJECTIVE:

The direct service objective would be met by educating the general public to the resources available. I feel sometimes that the issues of lack of adequate housing are simply being ignored. I have received much feedback from the public about how the term "subsidized housing" raises a lot of resentment and sometimes even hostility. There is a need for affordable housing, not more subsidies. I feel that making information more readily available will at least open the channels of communication toward addressing and tackling the issues.

### PRIMARY CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED THIS QUARTER:

While conducting my research I was puzzled and surprised by the hostility and mistrust encountered from some of the farmers/growers I attempted to interview. It is a constant challenge to continue in this work. That is why I feel it is so important to educate the general public about the issues we are faced with. Increased knowledge and awareness may decrease the fear and hostility present today.

AMERICORPS QUATERLY REPORT

From: John Glenn  
Rural Community Assistance Team  
Thurston County, Washington

Cluster: Wenatchee

**Quarterly Report**  
**AmeriCorps National Service Program**  
**April, 1996**

To: Mary McBride, RECD/ AmeriCorps Supervisor

From: John Glenn, Governor's Rural Community Assistance Team

**Primary Accomplishments this Quarter**

I was given an ambiguous, broad project that entailed the creation of an evaluating mechanism for the Washington Community Economic Revitalization Team (WA-CERT). I narrowed and defined the scope in a preliminary draft proposal, and eventually created a survey that serves as a comprehensive evaluation tool reflecting the initial goals of the WA-CERT program. I mailed part 1 of the survey to all those who applied for assistance through the WA-CERT process in FFY94. Part 1 evaluates customer service and application processing.

Consequently, FFY94 was the pilot year of the WA-CERT, so an evaluation of this alternative approach to government should be quite useful in streamlining the process, to better serve those rural communities previously dependent on natural resources as the heart of their economy. This is an issue of great importance in Washington State and one that must be thoroughly and accurately addressed.

This survey will provide valuable feedback from those who have utilized the WA-CERT as a clearinghouse for federal and state funding assistance, whether their project received funding or not. This feedback can only contribute in making the process more efficient and user friendly.

Part 2 of the survey is currently being drafted, and will aid in evaluating the effectiveness of the program in funding economic diversification projects in timber dependent communities, using the goals of the federal Economic Adjustment Initiative as a framework. Have the projects we've funded been successful?

**Unique successes or "great stories"**

Attending the AmeriCorps conference in Tennessee and meeting fellow AmeriCorps friends from around the nation, sharing project goals and successes, and being united under a cause/ movement, has been the highlight of my experiences with other national service participants.

**Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:**

**1) Direct Service Objectives**

Service of this kind is executed daily via the telephone. I am in continual contact with community members primarily in a context of supplying information. Information on the WA-CERT program, available to those in many rural communities throughout Washington, as well as the status of projects submitted through the WA-CERT process are common requests.

Though this element was limited to telephone communication this quarter, next quarter will reflect a broadened scope with community site visits and personal interviews (this is explained in the section, challenges encountered this quarter).

**2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives**

As this question is interpreted as personal growth through training and experience, I will briefly comment that I am grateful I've had this opportunity to learn first-hand about the legislative process (tracking legislation for the proposed Governor's Community Assistance Team as well as following several other bills), about professionalism associated with working for a government agency, community development (from training and attending meetings monthly), and about being assigned a long-term project and working towards completing that project. All of these were annual objectives for me.

### 3) Community Building/ Strengthening Objectives

This category is my strongest contribution as an AmeriCorps member. Not only are my day to day activities with the GRCAT and the WA-CERT oriented towards assisting those in rural communities via phone, fax, or grant/loan application processing, but my evaluation project will have positive ramifications on those same communities that are in need of assistance.

#### Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter

An issue of direct community participation, as an important element in goals of the AmeriCorps program, came to be at the conference in Memphis. Other than monthly meetings, this aspect was lacking throughout this appointment. In speaking with the organizers and fellow members in Memphis, it was felt that the spirit of the AmeriCorps program had been hindered slightly, due to the lack of direct community involvement. It was decided that the scope of my outreach should be broadened, to include this lacking element.

The evaluation I have been working on is directly associated with the streamlining of grant and loan funding to rural communities in need of economic stimulation. My time and energy as an AmeriCorps participant would be best spent expanding this evaluation to include case studies. These would serve in painting a complete picture of the need for, and effectiveness of grant/ loan funding to natural resource dependant rural communities. This will be done through interviews with community members, as well as the government agencies involved.

Not only will this added element contribute to the improved efficiency of project funding, it will serve as a legislative tool in lobbying for further allocations through the federal Economic Adjustment Initiative, and other rural community economic diversification programs.

#### National Identity Activities this Quarter

I must confess that my AmeriCorps shirts are personal favorites and are worn frequently. They solicit questions and comments regularly. Other than this and regular explanations/descriptions of the program to those I cross paths with, nothing I'm involved in has aroused the interest of the nation.

405 E. Florida  
Deming, NM 88030  
(505)546-8885

N M

FAX (505)546-0038

DATE: 4-11-95

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 8

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) TO:

NAME: John Thomas

FAX NUMBER: (505) 761-4976

TRANSMITTED FROM:

NAME: Lourdes V.  
CO

FAX NUMBER: (505)546-0038

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**Rural Economic and Community Development**  
405 E. Florida  
Deming, NM 88030  
(505)546-8885

2. Program name: DEMING

3. Corporation grantee name: RURAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4. Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies:

- First Quarter (10/1—12/31)       Second Quarter (1/1—3/31)       Third Quarter (4/1—6/30)       Fourth Quarter (7/1—9/30)

5. On what date did your AmeriCorps Members begin service or training? October 11, 1994

6. In the table below indicate (a) the number of full and part-time AmeriCorps Members that were enrolled as of the last day of the reporting quarter and (b) the total cumulative service hours completed by the AmeriCorps Members as of the last day of the reporting quarter.

	Number of AmeriCorps Members	Total Cumulative Hours or Required Service
Full-time	2	About 900 hrs.
Part-time		

7. Please provide estimates of the following:

- (a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: none
- (b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: none

Operating Site ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Corporation for National Service  
Operating Site Quarterly Report

1. Operating site name: NEW MEXICO

2. Program name: DEMING

CDBG-Conducted a door to door survey for the city of Deming. There was a response of about 150 citizens. The City of Deming conducted this survey because they were considering in applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for improvement of the Bell School area. Some improvements that they want to do are on the streets and sidewalk, recreation and parks, removal of blight and housing rehabilitation.

Back-Flow Prevention for Water Systems Training-This training helped me understand problems of what can happen if water systems are not installed correctly. I can share what I have learned with the communities that I come in contact with.

Training conference in Memphis, TN-This training taught me the basics of community development principles, practices, theories, and methods. I met many contact people that I can get hold of if there is help needed. I also got a better understanding of the USDA reporting policies and procedures. The skills that I gained in this training will help me work better with the community.

Operating Site ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Accomplishments this Quarter:** (In detail, describe your central activities, project milestones, and most important "things gotten done" this quarter.)

CDBG—Conducted a door to door survey for the city of Deming. There was a response of about 150 citizens. The City of

NONE TO REPORT AT THIS TIME

**Operating Site ID #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unique successes or "great stories":** (Briefly describe unique and/or exceptional successes, program highlights, or "great stories" about AmeriCorps people, projects or partnerships that occurred this quarter.)

OBJECTIVE #1-To meet with city officials:

I have contacted official and met with them. I have informed them that I am available to assist them and the community in any way that I can.

OBJECTIVE #2-To do outreach in community for those who are not physically able to come in to the office:

I have gone to the homes of the elderly, and assisted them in filling out applications and gone back to get signature in order to complete the process of filling out applications.

OBJECTIVE #3-Keep public informed about what can be obtained through our programs to assist them:

I am continuing to keep the community informed of what I can assist them.

OBJECTIVE #4-To interpret for those who speak only Spanish and do not understand English as well:

I am continuing to interpret when clients meet with the supervisor and fill out the applications out for them.

Operating Site ID #:

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**Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:**  
(Briefly describe how accomplishments this quarter relate to achieving each of your three sets of annual outcome objectives: (1) Direct Service Objectives, (2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives, and (3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives. Where available, describe evaluation data that indicate progress during the past quarter toward achieving your annual outcomes. Summarize activities related to establishing an evaluation system or conducting your local evaluation (e.g., instruments developed, data collection plans established, etc.).

**(1) Direct Service Objectives:**

OBJECTIVE #1-To meet with city officials:

I have made key contact in the Hidalgo county, having to do with the Federal Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) Initiative. I also set up a meeting with the technical assistance team for April 10, 1995 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss this in further detail. I will have more on this on my next quarterly report.

**(3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:**

On April 25, 1995 our cluster plans a clean-up of a community youth center. We plan on many of the local people from the community to help participate with the clean-up of the youth center

Operating Site ID #:

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**(2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:**

I have made key contact in the Hidalgo county, having to do with the Federal Empowerment Zone and Enterprise A

officials. when I do get hold of them and meet with them they seem interested, but when I try to get hold of them again I can't.

**Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs this Quarter:**

*Attached to this quarterly report form is a separate Training and Technical Assistance Request form. Should you have training or technical assistance needs, complete the attached form and submit it along with your quarterly report. It will be directed to the Training and Technical Assistance Office. Technical assistance is available in many program-related areas, including, among others, organizational development and management issues, fundraising, diversity, and best practices in site-specific skills.*

Operating Site ID #:

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**Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter:** (Report on problems resolved and unresolved, obstacles to achieving program objectives, significant sources of delay, program elements not meeting expectations, events or incidents that caused concern.)

I have had problems in trying to get hold of the city officials. When I do get hold of them and meet with them they seem interested, but when I try to get hold of them again I can't.

Training in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Changes in Program Organization or Key Staff Positions during this Quarter: (Report staff turnover in management or supervisory positions, changes in partner/sponsor relationships, changes in board membership, etc.)**

NONE TO REPORT AT THIS TIME

\*\* TOTAL PAGE.008 \*\*

Operating Site ID #:

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**National Identity Activities this Quarter:** (Report on activities this quarter that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. Examples could include new uniforms, signage or publicity materials; projects with other AmeriCorps programs; training members in national skill areas (communication/conflict resolution or CPR/first aid); participation in national service projects (HIV/AIDS awareness training, environmental audits, or citizenship education); graduations or swearing-in ceremonies, use of national recruitment, use of AmeriCorps Member Handbook.)

N/M

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Rural Economic and Community Development  
405 E. Florida  
Deming, NM 88030  
(505)546-8885

FAX (505)546-0038

DATE: April 7, 1995

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 08

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) TO:

NAME: John Thomas

FAX NUMBER: (505)761-4976

TRANSMITTED FROM:

NAME: Lawrence Garcia

FAX NUMBER: (505)546-0038

NOTES: Quarterly Report  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Corporation for National Service  
Operating Site Quarterly Report**

1. Operating site name: Deming, New Mexico

2. Program name: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Corporation grantee name: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies:

First Quarter  
(10/1—12/31)

Second Quarter  
(1/1—3/31)

Third Quarter  
(4/1—6/30)

Fourth Quarter  
(7/1—9/30)

5. On what date did your AmeriCorps Members begin service or training? October 18, 1995

6. In the table below indicate (a) the number of full and part-time AmeriCorps Members that were enrolled as of the last day of the reporting quarter and (b) the total cumulative service hours completed by the AmeriCorps Members as of the last day of the reporting quarter.

	Number of AmeriCorps Members	Total Cumulative Hours or Required Service
Full-time	2	900 approx.
Part-time	0	0

7. Please provide estimates of the following:

(a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers

who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: NONE

(a) Total number of AmeriCorps member volunteers

who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: NONE

(b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed  
by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: NONE

**Primary Accomplishments this Quarter:** (In detail, describe your central activities, project milestones, and most important "things gotten done" this quarter.)

CDBG Survey -- I helped the City of Deming fill out 150 income surveys. The City of Deming is considering applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for general neighborhood improvements, including street and sidewalk improvements, recreation and parks, blight removed and housing rehabilitation in the Bell School neighborhood.

Grant Writing Workshop -- We started the workshop with a few ice breaking activities. We covered everything from the basic principles of proposal writing, such as distinguishing between goals and objectives, to developing budgets. Most of the 20 AmeriCorps members that attended will use these skills throughout their term as well as their future careers.

Back-Flow Prevention for Water Systems -- This training seminar provided me with additional skills and knowledge to help assist the national effort to safeguard the drinking water of Rural America.

Attended Training conference in Memphis, Tennessee -- This course was titled Community Development Process and Methods Training Course. I learned a basic understanding of community development principles, practices, theories and methods. I had much group interaction with local situations. In addition, I now have a greater understanding of the USDA reporting policies and procedures. This will allow me to work with greater effectiveness and efficiency.

Operating Site ID #:

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**Unique successes or "great stories":** (Briefly describe unique and/or exceptional successes, program highlights, or "great stories" about AmeriCorps people, projects or partnerships that occurred this quarter.)

NONE TO REPORT AT THIS TIME

**Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:**  
(Briefly describe how accomplishments this quarter relate to achieving each of your three sets of annual outcome objectives: (1) Direct Service Objectives, (2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives, and (3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives. Where available, describe evaluation data that indicate progress during the past quarter toward achieving your annual outcomes. Summarize activities related to establishing an evaluation system or conducting your local evaluation (e.g., instruments developed, data collection plans established, etc.).

**(1) Direct Service Objectives:**

I have made 4 contacts with the cities officials and have met personally with them. I have informed them that I am available to assist the community in any way that I can. They said they would keep in touch and let me know of anything that I may be of assistance with.

I have also been attending the local town meeting regularly. I am becoming familiar with the cities key people and their different attitudes with their communities, as far as the meetings go.

**(2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:**

I have made key contacts in the Hidalgo county having to do with the Federal Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) Initiative. I also set up a meeting with the technical assistance team for April 10, 1995 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss this in further detail. I will have more on this on my next quarterly report.

**(3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:**

On April 25, 1995 our cluster planned a clean-up of a community youth center. We plan on many of the local people from the community to help participate with the clean-up of the youth center.

Operating Site ID #:

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**Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter: (Report on problems resolved and unresolved, obstacles to achieving program objectives, significant sources of delay, program elements not meeting expectations, events or incidents that caused concern.)**

I have been working with the Peoples Water Co-op in order to get a new community well built. This system has been designed and funded from the State. The obstacle that is holding the project up is the water rights. The current well has only 6.35 acres-feet. The new water system would require an additional 7.0 acres-feet in order to accomodate the families in need of clean drinking water. This next quarter I hope to get this problem resolved and continue with the building of the community water system. I have been in contact with the Engineer of this system and he has told me that they are currently looking into the possibility of transferring nearby water rights that are located near the proposed water well sight.

**National Identity Activities this Quarter:** (Report on activities this quarter that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. Examples could include new uniforms, signage or publicity materials; projects with other AmeriCorps programs; training members in national skill areas (communication/conflict resolution or CPR/first aid); participation in national service projects (HIV/AIDS awareness training, environmental audits, or citizenship education); graduations or swearing-in ceremonies, use of national recruitment, use of AmeriCorps Member Handbook.)

Training in Memphis, Tennessee. Explained more in detail on the first page of this report.

**Changes in Program Organization or Key Staff Positions during this Quarter:** (Report staff turnover in management or supervisory positions, changes in partner/sponsor relationships, changes in board membership, etc.)

NONE TO REPORT AT THIS TIME.

**Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs this Quarter:**

*Attached to this quarterly report form is a separate Training and Technical Assistance Request form. Should you have training or technical assistance needs, complete the attached form and submit it along with your quarterly report. It will be directed to the Training and Technical Assistance Office. Technical assistance is available in many program-related areas, including, among others, organizational development and management issues, fundraising, diversity, and best practices in site-specific skills.*

# AmeriCorps\*USA

## *Operating Site Quarterly Report*

Date this report was completed: April 6, 1995

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name of person completing this report: Paula J. Montez & Susan J. Burns

Position of person completing this report: AmeriCorps Members

Operating Site ID # (Please refer to attached list): Was no Attached List (RECD Las Cruces County Office)

Telephone number: (505) 522 - 6031

Fax number: (505) 521 - 3905

e-mail address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_



ANTHONY WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 1761 • ANTHONY, NEW MEXICO 88021 • (505) 882-3922

January 12, 1995

John Thomas, Jr.  
State Director of America  
RECD State Office  
6200 Jefferson St.  
N.E. Room 255  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Dear Mr. Thomas,

We were visited by Ms. Paula Montez & Ms. Susan Burns from your organization AmeriCorp. RECD on January 10, 1995. Efficiency accompanied by courtesy is a rare combination in today's work world. Ms. Montez & Ms. Burns were very informative and helpful regarding the funding available for assisting families with water & sewer hookups.

There is a high need in Anthony for these services and we will take advantage of this opportunity. The ladies have our full cooperation and we will enjoy working with them. If you have any questions please feel free to give us a call at (505) 882-3922.

Sincerely,

Loren H. Schoonover  
Office Manager

Report Form: Program Outreach - FY 95

TO: State Director  
Attn: Secretary to State Director

DUE: By 5th Day following Quarter

Quarter Ending: 4/5/95

Office: Las Cruces County Office (page 2)

<u>Meeting Conducted With</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u># of Attendees</u>
Chambrino Water Board	1-27-95	7
Council of Gov'ts Meeting-Anthony	1-27-95	3
Diocese Task Force-Milagro	1-28-95	40
Anthony Water District Office (help fill out applications)	1-30-95	8
Council of Gov'ts-Hatch	1-30-95	5
Consolidated Plan-County Commission	2-2-95	45
W Chile Conference	2-7-95	20
NM Rural Water Assn. Annual Mtg.	2-7-95 -- 2-10-95	40+
Diocese Task Force-Del Cerro	2-15-95	25
Community Pride-Paint Over Graffiti	2-18-95	6+
Diocese Task Force Meeting	2-23-95	20
Anthony Water District Office (help fill out applications)	2-24-95	8
Anthony Water District Office (help fill out applications)	3-2-95	6
La Mesa Mutual Domestic Water Meeting	3-7-95	10

District Director/County Supervisor

Date

Report Form: Program Outreach - FY 95

TO: State Director  
Attn: Secretary to State Director

DUE: By 5th Day following Quarter

Quarter Ending: 4-5-95

Office: Las Cruces County Office (page 1)

<u>Meeting Conducted With</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u># of Attendees</u>
Mr. Pat Banegas & Office Staff of the Anthony Water & Sanitation District	1-4-95	4
Mr. Jerry Lujan of the South Central Council of Governments	1-9-95	2
Mr. Pat Banegas & Loren Schoonover of Anthony Water & Sanitation District, and Representatives of the Mesquite Mutual Domestic & La Mesa Water	1-10-95	5
Mr. Albert Lyon & Caballo 4-H	1-11-95	25
Chamberino Open Town Meeting on creating a Mutual Domestic Water District	1-15-95	50+
Hudley City Council Meeting	1-17-95	14
Central City Council Meeting	1-17-95	12
Diocese of Las Cruces Task Force Meeting on Colonias Improvement	1-18-95	25
Silver City Senior Citizens Meeting	1-19-95	30+
Colonias Task Force Meeting	1-25-95	30
Lynn Goldstein of the Local Government Division of Council of Governments	1-25-95	3
Gila/Cliff Senior Citizens Meeting	1-26-95	25

District Director/County Supervisor

Date

Report Form: Program Outreach - FY 95

TO: State Director  
Attn: Secretary to State Director

DUE: By 5th Day following Quarter

Quarter Ending: 4/5/95

Office: Las Cruces County Office (page 3)

<u>Meeting Conducted With</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u># of Attendees</u>
Diocese Task Force-Del Cerro (help fill out applications)	3-8-95	20+
Anthony Water District Office (help fill out applications)	3-13-95	8
AmeriCorps Training-Memphis, TN	3-19-95 — 3-24-95	150+
NMSU Community Development Study Chamberino Meeting	4-2-95	30

District Director/County Supervisor

Date

MM

Facsimilie

AMERICORPS

Transmission

MEMBERS

Cover

Letter

"Getting Things Done"

TO: MR. JOHN THOMAS JR.

OFFICE: STATE OFFICE

TELEPHONE: (505) 761-4944

FAX NUMBER: (505) 761-4976

FROM: Susan J. Burns & Paula J. Montez

OFFICE: RECD County Office

CITY: Las Cruces, New Mexico

TELEPHONE: (505) 522-6031

FAX NUMBER: (505) 521-3905

COMMENTS: Dear John:

We are sending you this letter, sorry that it is a little late.

If you have any questions please call us.

Sincerely,

Paula & Susan

Number of page in this transmission including cover page: 14

**Corporation for National Service  
Operating Site Quarterly Report**

1. Operating site name: USDA RECD-Las Cruces, New Mexico County Office
2. Program name: United States Department of Agriculture --Rural Economic & Community Development
3. Corporation grantee name: United States Department of Agriculture
4. Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies:  
 First Quarter (10/1-12/31)       Second Quarter (1/1-3/31)       Third Quarter (4/1-6/30)       Fourth Quarter (7/1-9/30)
5. On what date did your AmeriCorps Members begin service or training? September 30, 1994
6. In the table below indicate (a) the number of full and part-time AmeriCorps Members that were enrolled as of the last day of the reporting quarter and (b) the total cumulative service hours completed by the AmeriCorps Members as of the last day of the reporting quarter.

	Number of AmeriCorps Members	Total Cumulative Hours or Required Service		
		1st 1/4	2nd 1/4	Total for each
Full-time	2	420	584	1004
Part-time				

7. Please provide estimates of the following:
- (a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: 12
- (b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: 61.5 hours

**Primary Accomplishments this Quarter:** (In detail, describe your central activities, project milestones, and most important "things gotten done" this quarter.)

This quarter our activities centered around making use of the 306c grants for Colonias Water and Waste Disposal. We worked mainly on getting the word out to residents that there was funding available to pay for connecting to community water and sewer. During January our meetings with communities increased tremendously in comparison with the first quarter. This was due to the various contacts with different agencies that we had made in the first quarter.

In January alone we had open meetings in 10 different communities. Also in January we began a program where we would travel to Anthony, a near by colonia, to help the residents, many whom did not speak English, fill out applications for the Water and Waste Disposal Grants. In this colonia we had technical and physical support from the local water and waste disposal superintendent and his staff. Toward the end of January we began speaking about the 504, Home Improvement Loans and Repair Loans and Grants. We focused our efforts toward low income elderly homeowners.

One of our new endeavors in January was to join The Task Force for the Development of Rural and Urban Policy, through the Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces. This group meets once a month to coordinate the work of the various local, state, and federal agencies who are working in and with colonias. Besides meeting as a large group, the task force is also broken down into committees. We joined two of these committees, the Community Education and Organizing, and the Housing and Ownership.

Our February calendar was a continuation of January's activities with the addition of our joining a group called Community Pride. This group spends one Saturday a month painting over graffiti. The paint, rollers, and brushes are donated by local businesses. We organized getting volunteers from our office and other USDA offices to participate by volunteering peoplepower.

The Catholic Diocese began a Colonias Development Council, that has planners in the colonias. We began to work extensively with these organizers. The planners would help us to setup meetings, and find facilities to help the residents with our applications.

March came in like a lamb. We just continued what we had been doing. We began to see the results of all of the time we had been spending on the applications. We saw the completion of the work on a 504 repair grant. We also had two 306c grants get funded.

This month left like a lion, because we attended a wonderful USDA AmeriCorps National Training Session in Memphis, Tennessee. We returned with not only the names and addresses of other AmeriCorps Member with whom we could communicate ideas and discuss difficulties that others may have already resolved. We brought home a wealth of knowledge on helping small communities survive.

Unique successes or "great stories": (Briefly describe unique and/or exceptional successes, program highlights, or "great stories" about AmeriCorps people, projects or partnerships that occurred this quarter.)

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**1) What work will be done?**

*To Inform local rural residents of available funding thru Rural Economic and Community Development (Farmers Home Administration). To assist in filling out housing applications.*

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(please refer to the report form for our state director which is included)

**2) What is the hoped-for results of the work/activities described above?**

*Socially disadvantaged, low income residents of colonias will be informed of the assistance available and how to apply for it.*

Since we have been working in colonias which are area were there are many low income residents, we believe that we are reaching our targeted people.

**3) How will you measure the quality of your product or impact or your service?**

*We will obtain a list of those who attended our meetings. We will evaluate results by the number of new applications generated from those who were present.*

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This new system seems to work well, because this way we also can track how the information from our meetings travel by word of mouth, as well as from direct contact.

As of today we have received one 502 housing loan application which was turned down due to credit. We have had one 504 grant which was funded and the work completed. We have generated 12 306c water and waste disposal grant applications, 2 of which have been funded and the work completed.

**4) By what standard will you gauge success?**

*At least 10% of the attendees will apply for Rural Economic and Community Development (Farmers Home Administration) assistance.*

According to my figures we have had direct outreach with approximately 500 residents of colonias. We have generated 14 applications which is 36 less than 10%. We think that our percentage may be slightly high but we still believe that we might be able to attain it.

**5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?**

*150 residents of colonias and 50 beginning, socially disadvantaged or youth farmers.*

We have reached over 150 residents of colonias. We have only had one meeting for the farmer programs, but at that meeting there were 25 participants.

**Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter:** (Report on problems resolved and unresolved, obstacles to achieving program objectives, significant sources of delay, program elements not meeting expectations, events or incidents that caused concern.)

Our Primary challenges this quarter centered around the bad reputation that our agency has in this area. The reason for this is that the people don't understand or trust the government. We had help, to gain the trust of the residents, in several communities due to Mr. Pablo Lara who received the 504 grant to put heat in his home (We told about him in our success stories earlier).

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Our last difficulty is the language barrier. Again we could still use a new Spanish to English Dictionary, or better yet an electronic translator.

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I've noticed that Gingrich and the Contract With America are losing a lot of the big issues — the balanced budget, now the term limits and probably welfare. So how is this any different from when Clinton was losing the health care? It's not as easy to do things as everyone thought it was, so we're right back to where we started from. Nobody can do anything.

*Call the Las Cruces Sun-News Sound Off! line 24 hours a day at 525-2977. Calls may be anonymous, or you may state your name if you wish. Voice your concerns, complaints or compliments.*

I'm calling to say thank you to the graffiti control that went around our neighborhood last weekend and painted over the graffiti. You people did a wonderful job. I noticed the graffiti in our neighborhood, but more importantly I noticed your efforts to get rid of it. Thanks a lot.

Facsimilie

AMERICORPS

Transmission

MEMBERS

Cover

Letter

"Getting Things Done"

TO: MR. JOHN THOMAS JR.

OFFICE: STATE OFFICE

TELEPHONE: (505) 761-4944

FAX NUMBER: (505) 761-4976

FROM: Susan J. Burns & Paula J. Montez

OFFICE: RECD County Office

CITY: Las Cruces, New Mexico

TELEPHONE: (505) 522-6031

FAX NUMBER: (505) 521-3905

COMMENTS: Dear John:

We are sending you this letter, sorry that it is a little late.

If you have any questions please call us.

Sincerely,

Paula & Susan

Number of page in this transmission including cover page: 14

# AmeriCorps\*USA

## *Operating Site Quarterly Report*

Date this report was completed: April 6, 1995

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name of person completing this report: Paula J. Montez & Susan J. Burns

Position of person completing this report: AmeriCorps Memebers

Operating Site ID # (Please refer to attached list): Was no Attached List (RECD Las Cruces County Office)

Telephone number: (505) 522 - 6031

Fax number: (505) 521 - 3905

e-mail address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

**Corporation for National Service  
Operating Site Quarterly Report**

1. Operating site name: USDA RECD--Las Cruces, New Mexico County Office
2. Program name: United States Department of Agriculture --Rural Economic & Community Development
3. Corporation grantee name: United States Department of Agriculture
4. Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies:  
 First Quarter (10/1—12/31)     Second Quarter (1/1—3/31)     Third Quarter (4/1—6/30)     Fourth Quarter (7/1—9/30)
5. On what date did your AmeriCorps Members begin service or training? September 30, 1994
6. In the table below indicate (a) the number of full and part-time AmeriCorps Members that were enrolled as of the last day of the reporting quarter and (b) the total cumulative service hours completed by the AmeriCorps Members as of the last day of the reporting quarter.

	Number of AmeriCorps Members	Total Cumulative Hours or Required Service		
		1st 1/4	2nd 1/4	Total for each
Full-time	2	420	584	1004
Part-time				

7. Please provide estimates of the following:
- (a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: 12
- (b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: 61.5 hours

**Primary Accomplishments this Quarter: (In detail, describe your central activities, project milestones, and most important "things gotten done" this quarter.)**

This quarter our activities centered around making use of the 306c grants for Colonias Water and Waste Disposal. We worked mainly on getting the word out to residents that there was funding available to pay for connecting to community water and sewer. During January our meetings with communities increased tremendously in comparison with the first quarter. This was due to the various contacts with different agencies that we had made in the first quarter.

In January alone we had open meetings in 10 different communities. Also in January we began a program where we would travel to Anthony, a near by colonia, to help the residents, many whom did not speak English, fill out applications for the Water and Waste Disposal Grants. In this colonia we had technical and physical support from the local water and waste disposal superintendent and his staff. Toward the end of January we began speaking about the 504, Home Improvement Loans and Repair Loans and Grants. We focused our efforts toward low income elderly homeowners.

One of our new endeavors in January was to join The Task Force for the Development of Rural and Urban Policy, through the Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces. This group meets once a month to coordinate the work of the various local, state, and federal agencies who are working in and with colonias. Besides meeting as a large group, the task force is also broken down into committees. We joined two of these committees, the Community Education and Organizing, and the Housing and Ownership.

Our February calendar was a continuation of January's activities with the addition of our joining a group called Community Pride. This group spends one Saturday a month painting over graffiti. The paint, rollers, and brushes are donated by local businesses. We organized getting volunteers from our office and other USDA offices to participate by volunteering peoplepower.

The Catholic Diocese began a Colonias Development Council, that has planners in the colonias. We began to work extensively with these organizers. The planners would help us to setup meetings, and find facilities to help the residents with our applications.

March came in like a lamb. We just continued what we had been doing. We began to see the results of all of the time we had been spending on the applications. We saw the completion of the work on a 504 repair grant. We also had two 306c grants get funded.

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NEWLAS VILLAGES, County OFFICE

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Report Form: Program Outreach - FY 95

TO: State Director  
Attn: Secretary to State Director

DUE: By 5th Day following Quarter

Quarter Ending: 4-5-95

Office: Las Cruces County Office (page 1)

<u>Meeting Conducted With</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u># of Attendees</u>
Mr. Pat Banegas & Office Staff of the Anthony Water & Sanitation District	1-4-95	4
Mr. Jerry Lujan of the South Central Council of Governments	1-9-95	2
Mr. Pat Banegas & Loren Schonover of Anthony Water & Sanitation District, and Representatives of the Mesquite Mutual Domestic & La Mesa Water	1-10-95	5
Mr. Albert Lyon & Caballo 4-H	1-11-95	25
Chamberino Open Town Meeting on creating a Mutual Domestic Water District	1-15-95	50+
Hurley City Council Meeting	1-17-95	14
Central City Council Meeting	1-17-95	12
Diocese of Las Cruces Task Force Meeting on Colonias Improvement	1-18-95	25
Silver City Senior Citizens Meeting	1-19-95	30+
Colonias Task Force Meeting	1-25-95	30
Lynn Goldstein of the Local Government Division of Council of Governments	1-25-95	3
Gila/Cliff Senior Citizens Meeting	1-26-95	25

District Director/County Supervisor

Date

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DUE: By 5th Day following Quarter

Quarter Ending: 4/5/95

Office: Las Cruces County Office (page 2)

<u>Meeting Conducted With</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u># of Attendees</u>
Chambrino Water Board	1-27-95	7
Council of Gov'ts Meeting-Anthony	1-27-95	3
Diocese Task Force-Milagro	1-28-95	40
Anthony Water District Office (help fill out applications)	1-30-95	8
Council of Gov'ts-Hatch	1-30-95	5
Consolidated Plan-County Commission	2-2-95	45
W Chile Conference	2-7-95	20
NM Rural Water Assn. Annual Mtg.	2-7-95 -- 2-10-95	40+
Diocese Task Force-Del Cerro	2-15-95	25
Community Pride-Paint Over Graffiti	2-18-95	6+
Diocese Task Force Meeting	2-23-95	20
Anthony Water District Office (help fill out applications)	2-24-95	8
Anthony Water District Office (help fill out applications)	3-2-95	6
La Mesa Mutual Domestic Water Meeting	3-7-95	10

District Director/County Supervisor

Date

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Attn: Secretary to State Director

DUE: By 5th Day following Quarter

Quarter Ending: 4/5/95

Office: Las Cruces County Office (page 3)

<u>Meeting Conducted With</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u># of Attendees</u>
Diocese Task Force-Del Cerro (help fill out applications)	3-8-95	20+
Anthony Water District Office (help fill out applications)	3-13-95	8
AmeriCorps Training-Memphis, TN	3-19-95 — 3-24-95	150+
NMSU Community Development Study Chamberino Meeting	4-2-95	30

District Director/County Supervisor

Date



ANTHONY WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 1751 • ANTHONY, NEW MEXICO 88021 • (505) 882-3922

January 12, 1995

John Thomas, Jr.  
State Director of America  
RECD State Office  
6200 Jefferson St.  
N.E. Room 255  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Dear Mr. Thomas,

We were visited by Ms. Paula Montez & Ms. Susan Burns from your organization AmeriCorp. RECD on January 10, 1995. Efficiency accompanied by courtesy is a rare combination in today's work world. Ms. Montez & Ms. Burns were very informative and helpful regarding the funding available for assisting families with water & sewer hookups.

There is a high need in Anthony for these services and we will take advantage of this opportunity. The ladies have our full cooperation and we will enjoy working with them. If you have any questions please feel free to give us a call at (505) 882-3922.

Sincerely,

Loren H. Schoonover  
Office Manager



FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION  
 504 NORTH MAIN  
 AZTEC, NM 87410  
 FAX NUMBER: 505-334-8659  
 OFFICE NUMBER: 505-334-9438

DATE: 4/12/05

SUBJECT: *AmeriCross*

ATTENTION: *John Thomas*

DEPT./AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_

FAX NUMBER *505-761-4974*

FROM *Shantel Jurneich*

C/O FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

COMMENTS: *Sorry - I did not get the Quarterly report information until Monday!*

Number of pages including this cover sheet 4



1. Aztec, New Mexico
2. AmeriCorps USDA Rural Development Team/RECD
3. USDA
4. Second Quarter FY 1995
5. Service began October 11, 1994
6. Members: 1 full time  
Total Service Hours Completed:
7. Primary Accomplishments this Quarter:

Completed a subsequent 502 RH loan for elderly woman. Her application was over two years old. This loan will allow her to have many necessary repairs done on her home. Including making the house handicap accessible.

In completion stage of finalizing loan for a young woman with Multiple Scoliosis. We have finished the loan package, except for the appraisal and obligation of funds. The community has agreed to furnish a hotel for her while her home is being repaired, to store her belongings, donated the carpet and clean the home after completion of project.

Completion of the RECD Housing Preservation Grant for the Upper Fruitland Chapter of the Navajo Nation. The grant was never submitted because the Chapter Coordinator did not complete all of the public notifications required by the grant. The Chapter will use the grant next year to apply for the funds.

Fifty letters were sent to private foundations on behalf of Four Corners Recycling, to help the organization explore future funding opportunities. A coloring book and tee-shirt was also designed and completed for an education program for elementary students in the San Juan County.

Organized and implemented a Home Buyers Education Workshop for 150 RECD applicants and community members. The workshop was held in partnership with the recipient of the RECD Housing Application Packaging Grant. The workshop included education on RECD loan programs, conventional loans, how to qualify for a home loan; house hold budgets and how to pick a contractor.

Presentations were given to three Senior Citizens Centers on the RECD 504 RH Loan. There was a total of 88 seniors in attendance.

Members attended a grant writing workshop for one week.

Strong involvement with the Bloomfield Boys and Girls Club. I am helping them explore fund raising possibilities such as fund

SUCCESS?

ABOUT  
WHAT? #

GET SPECIFICS

raisers and grants. I was elected as a board member.

I was invited and participated in a panelist discussion on Servant Leadership at San Juan College. I spoke to a Leadership and Group Dynamics class and several community members. Total number in attendance was 43 people.

Completed a Business Assistance and Retention survey for the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments. Sixty three businesses were surveyed.

Attended Rural Development Training, Helping Small Towns Survive, in Memphis, Tennessee March 20-24.

Assisted eight applicants complete their applications.

Gave presentations to three Reality Companies on the RECD Guaranteed Loan Program. Total number in attendance 28.

Sent informational packages to local contractors and San Juan Home Builders Association on RECD Self Help Program.

Contacts made and meetings attended this quarter.

Governor Day's at San Juan College: Speaker did not show so Aztec AmeriCorps lead the discussion on AmeriCorps.

Executive Director of Navajo Agriculture Production Inc.

Four Corners Recycling, President and Executive Board Members.

Farmington City Council Meeting.

San Juan Senior Citizens Advisory Board.

Senator Christine Donisthorp to discuss Water/Sewer Treatment Plant for Bloomfield, New Mexico.

Interview on KSJC, San Juan College radio station.

Dee Cadrian, Director of RSVP.

Interview with Farmington Daily Times.

County Commission Meeting.

Attended five cluster meetings.

Aztec, New Mexico City Council Meeting.

Aztec, New Mexico Chamber of Commerce Meeting.

Lunch with Mayor Tom Taylor of Farmington, New Mexico.

Attended three Bloomfield Boys and Girls Club meetings.

Attended two Four Corners Recycling meetings.

Meeting with City of Farmington Community Development Team.

Grant Writing workshop.

Rural Development Training in Memphis, TN.

Began National Service Day project. Location will be at Our Ranch San Juan, Inc. Project will include installation of a water line for irrigation, painting, beautification, designing of a petting zoo and construction of a bathroom.

Success Stories:  
See Attached

Media Coverage:  
See Attached

## NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE APRIL 25, 1995

AmeriCorps members and The San Juan College Volunteer Center invite all members of the community to join us at Our Ranch San Juan Inc. in Farmington, Tuesday April 25th for a day of volunteer service.

Our mission is to organize the community for a day of service and help the organizers of Our Ranch get a well deserved push toward success.

Our Ranch San Juan Inc. began as a vision by Bob Browning who holds the philosophy that through horses and other animals people can find their roots, solve social problems and establish community bonds. Through horsemanship skills Browning hopes to provide an opportunity for disadvantaged youth to interact with and develop positive relationships with the animals. Eventually Our Ranch will provide youth employment, family recreation, retiree activities, a petting zoo, a community garden and livestock production.

When: 8:30AM-6:00PM, Tuesday April 25th

Where: Browning Ranch at 333 Browning Parkway  
Farmington, New Mexico 87401

For more information contact  
AmeriCorps members, Erick Aune at (505) 334-1482  
or Shantel Farnsworth at (505) 334-9438.

Please join us for an opportunity to share your community spirit helping Our Ranch help our children and having a fun time doing so.



*N.M.*

12 April, 1995

SUBJECT: AmeriCorps Quarterly Report

TO: U.S.D.A./Office of Communications  
Rm.541-A  
14th St. & Independence Ave., S.W  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

*N.M.*

Attn.: Jim Coyle / Dave Gibson

Enclosed are the individual quarterly reports submitted from the AmeriCorps members from New Mexico.

There have been no major staff or structural changes made at this time other than the Agency name has changed from FmHA to Rural Economic and Community Development. Several of the members have used up their allocated funds for travel. If the AmeriCorps members continue to travel at the rate they have in the past, they will dip into travel funds allocated to full time RECD employees.

Should you have any questions regarding this material please advise.

JOHN THOMAS JR.  
Rural Development Coordinator

enclosure

cc: State Director New Mexico/with attachment  
New Mexico, AmeriCorps members

FOUR CORNERS - RECD  
No way to calculate  
#s. #s, if given  
at all, were totals  
needed to complete  
service, not total  
# hrs of service  
completed in 2d Q.  
+ no training #s.



**FAX Transmission**

**From:** John Whitney  
**Questions?** Call (716) 652-8480  
Fax (716) 652-8506  
**To:** Paula Jones  
**Company:** USDA NRCS  
**Address:**  
**Date:** December 19, 1994  
**Time:**

**USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
50 Commerce Way  
East Aurora, New York 14052-2185**

**1-202-690-0639,  
Washington, DC**

**Pages: (including this one) 14**

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**Message: Paula & Dee,**

Sorry I didn't get this to you by 12/15. Hope this does the trick for the first quarter report.

We are working on our project renewal. I would like to chat with someone about whether or not we should propose an expanded project to have more GIS sites around New York or if we should keep our project a simple renewal proposal with one separate proposal for the rest of the sites (or a series of separate proposals for each of the half-dozen sites likely to be candidates GIS-based sites around the State).

Please call if you have any questions or need further information. If I am not in the office you can probably reach me at home (716) 652-0992 or by VoiceComm box 655-1230.

**Happy Holidays!**

## AmeriCorps/USDA Quarterly Report

(Through November 30, 1994 )

East Aurora, New York, Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office

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

5/5

B) Total number of hours of direct service performed by Member and total number of hours members were in training

2267/450

C) Any major staff or structural changes you have made

One member, Denise John resigned after five weeks due to an excessive commute. Denise was replaced with Jeff Rosier who had worked with the project as an Earth Team volunteer for two weeks prior to Denise's resignation.

D) Progress towards meeting community service objectives

**Objective 1A** is to collect existing digitized natural resource and demographic data for the 700,000 acre project area. AmeriCorps members have corresponded with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Heritage Registry and others to acquire either digitized data or maps suitable for digitizing and to be sure that local digitizing efforts would not duplicate efforts already underway. Census Bureau TIGER files have been screened for applicability. National Wetland Inventory maps were ordered and received. A series of digitized resource maps was ordered from NYSDEC.

**Objective 1B** is to digitize a minimum of two, high priority data layers of moderate complexity for the entire project area. Digitizing of tax map parcels is underway to allow the creation of a series of county-wide special district maps including Agricultural Districts, Water Districts, Sewer Districts, Fire Protection Districts, School Districts, etc. Procedures are being worked out to map the location of surviving American Chestnuts in Western New York in partnership with the New York Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. AmeriCorps has contacted a group of researchers studying mature and remnant "old growth forest" areas in Western New York to offer mapping services. They have also been in contact with the County Dept. of Taxation to offer services to map the locations of property owned by the county due to non-payment of taxes. This data layer will be of value in local planning for both resource protection and community development.

**Objective 1C** is to digitize a minimum three complex layers like soils, wetlands, or farm parcels for a minimum of 150,000 acres per year. AmeriCorps members have completed the digitizing of the National Wetlands Inventory maps for 75% of Erie County (approx. 500,000 acres). They have also completed the digitizing of tax parcel maps for one and one-half townships in Erie County (approx. 60,000 acres). Data acquisition has been initiated to allow digitizing of soils data for approx. 200,000 acres in northern Erie and southern Niagara Counties in support of the Niagara Frontiers Wetlands Initiative.

**Objective 1D** is to produce at least 3 simple data layers like stream corridor parcels or locations of conservation measures for the project area. Members completed the digitizing of the locations of road signs marking the boundary of the Buffalo Creek Watershed. They also created a number of data layers associated with mapping requests from the Seneca Nation of Indians and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in support of a reservation-wide forest management plan.

**Objective 1E** is to distribute data in paper or electronic format to at least five communities or agencies each year. Data is being distributed to the Seneca Nation of Indians (in paper format) on a regular basis. Procedures are being established to facilitate electronic distribution of non-sensitive data. A survey of Erie County communities has collected data related to community data needs and equipment and software in order to guide both work priorities and data distribution strategies. A map was prepared at the request of Buffalo State College staff to show the locations of farm tracts within 1000 feet of streams within the Buffalo Creek Watershed. Using previously prepared data, AmeriCorps members generated a map for publication in a professional journal as part of a research project on bacterial contamination of sediments in the Buffalo Creek Watershed.

**Objective 1F** is to develop and demonstrate applications to help local communities develop more efficient and effective land use planning, resource protection, and growth management procedures. Not enough data yet to do much in this arena.

**Objective 2** is for AmeriCorps members to assist NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation District staff with planning and application of soil and water conservation measures. AmeriCorps members have helped with planning, survey and design of three wetland restoration projects, two runoff management projects and three manure management projects. They have also assisted with inventory and evaluation activities associated with severe flooding that took place in two Erie County communities in August. AmeriCorps members are also helping to complete 45 highly erodible land and wetland determinations requested by Erie County farmers and will assist in development of Conservation Plans for those farms needing conservation plans.

Work has progressed at a rapid pace. Much of the technical training associated with project activities must be learned through hands-on experience. We are pleased that, with a minimum of orientation and training, the crew is able to work independently, efficiently, and effectively. Work is consistently of high quality and AmeriCorps members are careful in documenting procedures and accomplishments in order to keep everyone up to date and to help

out the next class of AmeriCorps members. Of particular significance is the establishment of an additional digitizing work-site at a non-profit GIS company called Intcligis.

#### E) Primary accomplishments

All members have received approximately 90 hours of direct orientation and training in both GRASS and Arc/Info geographic information software as well as USDA and NRCS history, policies, and activities. Members have reviewed previously prepared GIS tutorials and orientation videos. They are also developing a series of "Standard Operating Procedure" papers.

Members met on their own time for a team-building hike through Allegany State Park.

Members have successfully recruited 5 additional Earth Team volunteers to assist with project activities. They have done an excellent job training the volunteers and coordinating their involvement. Weekly AmeriCorps member meetings have been used to review accomplishments, plan upcoming work, and discuss general issues like timekeeping, leave policies, insurance, diversity, job satisfaction and frustrations, scheduling, and other AmeriCorps projects around the New York State and the Country.

GIS work is going better than expected. All members quickly developed a working proficiency at both GRASS and Arc/Info. Digitized data is of high quality and we look forward to beginning the data sharing phases of the project. Work priority surveys sent to 30 municipalities and agencies generated 14 written responses, all highly interested in working with AmeriCorps and supportive of their GIS efforts.

#### F) Primary challenges

The NRCS computer system lacks sufficient "horsepower" to handle the demands of our data intensive activities. The current system is a "loaner" system from the NRCS State Office which replaced a more powerful but unstable system. New, more powerful computers purchased by NRCS in New York have been sitting in Syracuse since the end of September. According to Information Resource Management staff, there are no plans to try setting up the East Aurora computer until February at the earliest.

Purchase of any computer related equipment and supplies now requires the written permission of State IRM staff. This is a significant impediment for computer intensive operations. We couldn't even get data cartridges to backup our computer. In the interest of data security, we finally bent the rule and purchased cartridges locally.

GRASS has some serious limitations for full GIS use. Arc/Info is the software used by every other GIS site in Erie County. A coordinated grant proposal with the Erie County Dept. of Environment and Planning includes ArcView2 software for field office use (to use Arc/Info data files directly). We'll see how the proposal goes. AmeriCorps members wrote to the developers of Arc/Info to ask if they would be interested in donating a site license to support the project. No response yet.

The addition of a worksite at Inteligis has helped tremendously but we still could use one more regular worksite. Due to the "professional" nature of the project, the AmeriCorps members do not feel comfortable in Tee shirts and backward hats. The AmeriCorps buttons are working but members would like alternatives like lapel pins, a "stylish" AmeriCorps sweater, ties and scarves, or some similar apparel.

Transportation of AmeriCorps members is a challenge. The NRCS field office pickup doesn't fit the bill. We have occasionally been able to borrow a van from nearby offices but members have often had to provide their own transportation. While we have been reimbursing members for necessary travel during the work day, members would rather not have to use their own vehicles.

#### G) Primary training and technical assistance need

We anticipate a need for assistance with the development of data transfer procedures. A team building exercise is planned for this spring at a local "ropes course."

#### H) Media Coverage

The Buffalo News ran a number of stories related to AmeriCorps recruiting and project plans (previously sent to NHQ).

The only other AmeriCorps site in Erie County, the West Seneca Youth Action Corps is funded through the New York Commission on National and Community Service. Unfortunately, the project has been a political hot potato with almost weekly coverage, often less than positive since the middle of October. The problems seemed to have boiled down to two main concerns:

a) AmeriCorps was doing work outside of the Town of West Seneca which trouble a few of the Town Councilmen - that has since been resolved after thorough review of the grant proposal and a better understanding of what AmeriCorps is about.

b) The Councilman making the most fuss seems to have been motivated in part by a long-standing feud with the project director and by his belief that he or at least the Town Council should have appointing authority for all AmeriCorps members. Lou Trapani in the Governor's Office for Volunteer Services has provided some forceful reminders regarding the recruiting process and the Councilman appears to have backed down

Because of the intense scrutiny of the West Seneca Project, we have avoid media coverage in order to try to keep our project out of the fray. Instead we focused our efforts on local correspondence with Erie County municipalities and agencies. Now that the dogfight is over, we expect to begin issuing some press releases related to AmeriCorps accomplishments.

#### I) Other Creative Documentation

AmeriCorps members in the East Aurora Project have volunteers to create a map of all AmeriCorps project sites in New York for use by the Governor's office. They also intend to create a map of local project sites for the West Seneca group both to support local publicity efforts and to provide an opportunity to work more closely with another AmeriCorps group.

AmeriCorps was featured in an article in the fall newsletter of the Western New York Land Conservancy, Inc. (attached).

Coordination with Mark Lazarro, project director of the West Seneca site has ensured that he mentions the East Aurora site in his presentations to area groups and colleges and we reciprocate whenever we have the opportunity.

AmeriCorps member, Lisa Matthias did a presentation including information on AmeriCorps at Alfred University in Allegany County. This was especially significant since the Allegany County office is very interested in becoming an AmeriCorps worksite.

Corps member journals have taken a number of forms. One member only writes what he thinks are important procedures or instructions. Other members use there journals for more reflective purposes.

AmeriCorps members developed their own letterhead for all correspondence. Some examples of correspondence are enclosed.

## AmeriCorps™ In Western New York



The East Aurora office of the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has been approved by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United States Department of Agriculture as a work site for the first round of AmeriCorps projects scheduled to begin on September 12, 1994.

AmeriCorps is a key component of President Clinton's new national service initiative designed to provide opportunities for Americans to help their communities and their country through participation in team-based service projects. Five (5) people at the East Aurora site will work 1700 hours each on a variety of activities involving soil and water conservation and geographic information systems (computerized mapping and data management). AmeriCorps participants will receive a modest living allowance and, upon completion of their service commitment, a \$4725 voucher redeemable for future educational expenses or to pay back college loans. Additionally, "Earth Team" volunteers will work along side the AmeriCorps members for job experience, college credit or just to help the conservation cause.

One of the deciding factors in the approval of the East Aurora project was the planned use of the AmeriCorps team to support the coordinated activities of a number of area municipalities, agencies, and nonprofit organizations like the Western New York Land Conservancy. AmeriCorps staff will be available to help the WNYLC with mapping and site analysis efforts, documentation and monitoring tools, greenway project maps, easement tracking, etc. We look forward to their assistance over the coming years.

If you have ideas for AmeriCorps projects, contact Conservancy headquarters or the SCS office in East Aurora.

## Announcing 1994-95 WNYLC Workshops

The WNYLC is proud to announce a full slate of workshops designed to inform and educate the public about issues in land protection and conservation. The workshop series is supported by a grant from the Rural New York Grant Program (see page 2 for details). A complete list of speakers and topics will be sent to all members by the end of October. We encourage you to contact us at our Sardinia office if you have any questions concerning the workshops or the schedule. We look at these workshops as an opportunity to educate landowners, municipal officials, lawyers, real estate agents, assessors, conservationists and environmentalists about issues of land protection and conservation. It is also an opportunity for planners, extension agents, Soil & Water Conservation District employees, as well as our supporting members to learn more about what a land trust does and new approaches for protecting the environmental heritage of Western New York.

### ALL MEETINGS

Held at Local Cornell Cooperative Extension Offices 7-9:30 PM

Volunteers needed to plan and organize events. Call John Whitney at 652-0992.

Sessions will include refreshments and an open discussion period.

#### Friday, October 21st—Erie County—East Aurora

*Public/Private Partnerships*—Henry Tepper, Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources, New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (Unconfirmed)  
WNYLC annual meeting will start at 5:30.

#### Tuesday, November 29th—Allegany County—Belmont

*Conservation Easements: Estate Planning and Tax Issues*—TBA

#### Wednesday, Nov. 30th—Cattaraugus County—Ellicottville

*Forest and Farmland Protection*—TBA

#### Wednesday, December 14th—Chautauqua County—Jamestown

*Protection of Watersheds, Greenways, Trails and Working Landscapes*—Panel Discussion with representatives from WNYLC, Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, Chautauqua Lake Association and the Nature Conservancy and possibly the Roger Tory Peterson Institute

#### Tuesday, January 24th—Niagara County—Lockport

*Farmland Protection and Preservation*—Jeremiah P. Cosgrove, NY Field Office of the American Farmland Trust. Also Paul Lehman, Cornell Coop. Extension Agent.

#### Wednesday, January 25th—Genesee County—Batavia

*Farmland Protection and Preservation*—Jeremiah P. Cosgrove, NY Field Office of the American Farmland Trust

#### Tuesday, February 28th—Orleans County—Albion

*Land Trusts and Conservation Easements*—Andy Zepp, The Nature Conservancy

#### Tuesday March 28th—Wyoming County—Warsaw

*Preserving Rural Landscapes and Communities*—TBA

#### Cost:

Each session is \$10 and includes workshop materials

Workshop plus single membership is \$15

Family/Sustaining Membership plus materials is \$30.

50 Commerce Way  
East Aurora, NY 14052  
(716) 652-8480  
(716) 652-8506 Fax

October 31, 1994

Jerry Rasmussen  
Habitat Inventory Unit  
NYS DEC  
700 Troy-Schenectady  
Latham, NY 12110

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

The USDA Soil Conservation Service/AmeriCorps program in East Aurora, New York, is in the process of setting priorities in support of current and future community-based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) projects.

AmeriCorps is a new national program committed to providing service to local communities. We are a five member team working under the direction of John Whitney, the USDA Soil Conservation Service's district conservationist in Erie County.

Our goal is to provide environmental conservation assistance to local communities through the use of GIS. This assistance will include collecting and digitizing critical decision-making data such as soils, wetlands, tax parcel boundaries and wildlife information. In partnership with Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (ECDEP), the Inteligis Corporation (a nonprofit organization), and other Erie County organizations and agencies, we will be coordinating the dissemination of environmental data to Erie County communities, Indian Reservations, and municipalities to increase data sharing, decrease development costs, and eliminate redundancy.

To accomplish the objectives of AmeriCorps, we would like to obtain copies of the DEC digitized data listed below for Erie and Niagara counties:

- ❖ NYS DEC Regions
- ❖ Deer Management Units
- ❖ Ecological Zones
- ❖ Fisheries/Biological Locations (Adirondack Lake Survey Corp.)
- ❖ NY Natural Heritage areas (NY Natural Heritage Program)
- ❖ NYS DEC Freshwater Wetlands
- ❖ NYS DEC Wildlife Management Access Areas and Units

We understand the release of the Fisheries/Biological locations and the NY Natural Heritage areas requires additional approval. Walt Kretser from the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation (ALSC) and Kathryn Schneider from the NY Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) have agreed to share the data from each of their agencies with SCS/AmeriCorps and will send written releases to the NYS DEC Habitat Inventory Unit.

Currently, the GIS system used by the SCS is GRASS. Enclosed is one 600' .25" magnetic streaming tape for the transference of data and a photocopy of the GRASS <v.import> command section showing the types of file formats GRASS can read. A DLG file format may be easiest to incorporate into our system.

As stated, an AmeriCorps objective is to facilitate data sharing with local community municipalities and non-profit organizations. Please contact us describing NYS DEC policies concerning digitized data sharing (excluding ALSC and NYNHP data).

If you have any questions, please contact AmeriCorps at the above address. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Gangemi  
USDA SCS/AmeriCorps

encl.

cc: John Whitney, United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service  
Michael Courneen, Inteligis Corporation

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# USDA/AmeriCorps

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50 Commerce Way  
East Aurora, NY 14052  
(716) 652-8480  
(716) 652-8506 Fax

November 1, 1994

Dear <Town Supervisor>:

The USDA Soil Conservation Service/AmeriCorps program in East Aurora is in the process of setting priorities in support of current and future community-based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) projects.

AmeriCorps is a new national program committed to providing service to local communities. We are a five member team working under the direction of John Whitney, the USDA Soil Conservation Service's district conservationist in Erie County, New York.

Our goal is to provide assistance to local communities through the use of GIS. This assistance will include the collection and digitization (conversion of paper map information to a computer format) of critical decision-making data such as soils, wetlands, tax parcel boundaries and special use districts. In partnership with Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (ECDEP), Erie County Water Authority and the Inteligis Corporation (a nonprofit organization), we will be coordinating the dissemination of data to Erie County communities, Indian Reservations, and municipalities to increase data sharing, decrease development costs, and eliminate redundancy.

Currently, the GIS system used by the SCS is GRASS. The GRASS program represents map features through the production of raster, vector, and support files. Export functions allow transfer of data to other applications like Arc/Info so that data can be made accessible to other GIS agencies.

If you would like to learn more about GIS and AmeriCorps, please contact us.

Enclosed is a questionnaire to help us set priorities for our work in order to best meet community needs. We appreciate your time and effort in answering the questions. Please feel free to forward the questionnaire to the appropriate parties within your municipality or agency.

Sincerely,

Melissa L. Brice

cc: John Whitney, United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service  
Dale Morris, Erie County Department of Environmental Planning  
Paul Becker, Erie County Water Authority  
Michael Courneen, Inteligis Corporation

# AMERICORPS GIS PROJECT PRIORITIES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality  
or Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

GIS KNOWLEDGE:

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- aware of GIS?
- what is GIS?
- experienced with GIS?

- ❖ Do you have access to a GIS? Yes/No If yes, please describe the hardware and software used.
- ❖ If you have GIS capabilities, would you be interested in having an AmeriCorps member work in your office on a part-time, volunteer basis? Yes/No
- ❖ Does your agency/organization have digitized natural resource data that could be included in a county-wide database? Yes/No If so, what data?
- ❖ What type of data currently used by your municipality or agency would be most beneficial in digitized format?
- ❖ What additional digitized data would you like to have access to?
- ❖ Are you interested in receiving updates on our progress, as in periodic reports/newsletters or electronic or paper data? Yes/No
- ❖ If you are starting up a GIS system would you be interested in GIS assistance by an AmeriCorps member? Yes/No
- ❖ Additional Comments:

❖ Please return survey to:

USDA SCS/AmeriCorps  
50 Commerce Way  
East Aurora, NY 14052



# TELEFAX

Facsimile Transmittal



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
(Formerly USDA Soil Conservation Service)  
200 North High Street, Room 522  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2478

(614) 469-6962 (Main Number)

(614) 469-2083 (FAX)

DATE: 12-14-94

TO: Paula Cole Jones  
Ameri Corps Program Manager

FROM: Wayne Munsch  
Ohio Ameri Corps Manager

No. of pages: 11 Plus Transmittal Sheet = 12 Total Pages

COMMENTS:

Enclosed is first quarter Ameri Corps  
progress report for Ohio.

/s/ Wayne Munsch

## FIRST QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT

**Project Name:** Darby Creek  
**Type of Team:** Rural Development  
**Type of Work:** Watershed Restoration Project

1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE LAUNCH - Six (6)
2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE QUARTER (Nov 30) - Six
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED:

The Darby Creek Project participants started on October 3, 1994. 42 days minus 3 days Holiday equals 39 days x 8 hours per day x 6 participants equals 1872 hours of direct service performed as of Nov 30, 1994.

4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF TRAINING:

The group went through one week of direct training at the London NRCS office during the first week of the project. This equals 240 person hours. One week of training and review has occurred during one half day training sessions at the weekly cluster meetings. This equals 240 hours. Five of the six AmeriCorps participants received NRCS Total Quality Management (TQM) training. This equals 160 person hours. The total training hours equals 640 hours to date.

5. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES:

Objective One of the project, as listed below, is the principal community service objective.

Two participants will work at the task of keeping field maps (GIS base maps) updated and work in the field to check map accuracy related to the installation of conservation best management practices.

Action: All maps have been acquired and data from 1994 collected for data entry during winter.

The participants will work with the RiverKeeper to inventory the tributaries, and Big and Little Darby Creek for riparian cover and identify problem areas where point and nonpoint pollution enters the stream system.

Action: Pickaway and Franklin/Madison stream sections have been inventoried this fall. Approximately 30% of the Big Darby has been inventoried.

12. 09. 94 03:36 PM \*FINDLEY DAVIES/CLEVE P03

## 6. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following is what was submitted as part of a one page document submitted since Darby Creek was selected as an example of a watershed restoration project.

One of the greatest accomplishments to date has been the ability of the Darby AmeriCorps team to focus on helping the Darby Partners carry out the mission: **TO PRESERVE, MAINTAIN, AND ENHANCE THE BIG DARBY CREEK AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEM.**

Since the selection of the 6 participants, the team has been developed and is now working to establish their presence in the watershed. They have done this through news articles in the local newspaper. The London, Ohio, team of four, the Division of Forestry, and ODNR Scenic Rivers participants are developing activity plans, three-month schedules, and are at present being given NRCS Total Quality Management Training.

The participants are focusing on four objectives in the Darby Creek Americorps work plan. Their accomplishments to date are:

- OBJECTIVE 1:** Two participants are working on the task of keeping field maps (GIS base maps) updated and working in the field to check map accuracy related to the installation of conservation best management practices. To date, an inventory of Pickaway County has been completed and data will be entered on the maps and into the GIS system during the winter months when field work is not possible.
- OBJECTIVE 2:** Two participants are assisting Soil and Water Conservation Districts to do survey and design work for Best Management Practices in the rural areas. They are working in the urban portion of the watershed with the SWCD's in checking best management practices on urbanizing areas.
- OBJECTIVE 3:** One participant is assisting with the inventory of people who want to plant trees in the priority riparian corridor areas and assisting with the T.R.E.E.S. Turn Key Program.
- OBJECTIVE 4:** One participant has accepted the position of River Keeper and is assisting the Darby Creek ODNR Scenic Rivers Coordinator at the field level. An inventory of Big and Little Darby Creeks for riparian cover and identification of problem areas where point and nonpoint pollution enters the stream system are underway. Contact has been made with several schools and the OEPA concerning dumping of materials into the river. Many landowners have been contacted by the River Keeper in an attempt to draw attention to the value of the riparian corridor and the river.

12. 09. 94 03:36 PM \*FINDLEY DAVIES/CLEVE P04

In addition to these items, the Darby team is providing assistance by collecting images and developing six videos to use on topics ranging from stream monitoring to pasture management. They are also developing associated teacher's guides for grades K through 12.

#### 7. PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER:

The project objectives cover a 1700 hour span of time per participant. The next quarter will be basically spent indoors and focused on data entry, the development of videos and teacher guides, and working with local groups on spring river clean up activities. Two participants have videographic backgrounds and have been directed to do 5 videos, (See attachment) along with other planned activities. These will be outlined and 50% completed in the next quarter.

The first quarter of the project was planned with training time incorporated and startup time. The participants exceeded the desired goals in a majority of the areas due to their past backgrounds and their desire to do a good job.

#### 8. PRIMARY CHALLENGES:

The main challenge faced is the time commitment needed and the cooperation required to give these participants a meaningful and rewarding experience. The institutional barriers to be overcome by placing these participants in offices during a time of USDA staff reduction was not easy. There are some situations where USDA staff are dealing with job insecurities. I have spent time helping these individuals overcome resentment toward the Americorps individuals.

I do not think than anyone other than the crew leader or project manager can handle these situations. With the change in power at the national level it is a foregone conclusion to many at the field level that this is a two year program no matter how well we do.

#### 9. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS:

As our participants are well trained and very motivated additional training is not of great value at this time. We have real materials needs that cannot be meet by the NRCS acquisition system and a fund should be set up for discretionary use by the Project Director and Manager.

#### 10. MEDIA COVERAGE:

Please see attachments on media coverage.

#### 11. OTHER CREATIVE DOCUMENTATION:

During the second quarter more information via video, daily diaries and support letters will be provided. The next quarterly report will be written by the Darby Team. Data for this report came from daily diaries and data provided by Darby Crew Leaders Mary Ann Core and Melissa Horton.

**AMERICORP--UNION COUNTY  
Scheduling to be done by individuals.**

**Mike and Dan**

**Videos:**

1. **BMP for Water Quality:** More thorough pasture pump video. Need to show it's use i.e. cows using, ease of moving, fenced out shots of foot valve in water.  
  
---Filter strips in Buck Run--economics.
2. **Education: Seining** - how to do the seining. Can show to teachers as resource tool for water quality.  
  
----Cycles activity when doing the activity to show other teachers how it is done and how it can be incorporated into the curriculum.
3. **Urban Construction:** How to install BMP; for example, straw bales, fence, basins, seed construction in progress. Time sequence or time lapse of erosion control practices or lack of practices.
4. **Tree Planting:** How to use dibble bar and tree planter.
5. **Wetland Construction - From Start to Finish:** Survey, design work, construction, plant materials. Time sequence or lapse of wetland showing changes in vegetation, water level, etc. Show wildlife activity in and around wetland.
6. **Flowing Water in Structural Practices:** such as waterway, erosion control structure, sediment basin.

**Black and White Photography:**

1. Put book together, redo photos to be used.
2. Residential Construction
3. Wildlife
4. Conservation Tillage
5. Tree Planting Sequence
6. Filter Strips

**SECOND QUARTER AMERICORPS REPORT ( OKLAHOMA )**  
**( Inclusive September 12, 1994 - March 31, 1995 )**

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Environment Corps  
Windbreak Restoration in Western Oklahoma

**1. Twenty AmeriCorps Members were enrolled at the time of the AmeriCorps Launch, September 12, 1994. We still continue to maintain the original twenty members ( 5 Female and 15 Male ).**

**2. Total number of hours of direct service of the Environment Corps is :**

13 days training x 8 hours	= 104 hours (9%)
127 days on site x 8 hours	= 1016 hours (91%)
<b>TOTAL:</b>	
140 days x 8 hours	= 1120 hours (100%)

**3. Total number of hours in training for AmeriCorps Members is as follows:**

- 8 hours - Orientation
- 16 hours - Safety & Health
- 8 hours - CPR/First Aid
- 24 hours - Effective Presentations
- 16 hours - TQM (Awareness, etc)
- 16 hours - Leadership Development
- 16 hours - Project Learning Tree and Project Wild

Total:  
104 hours training

**4. Progress towards meeting community service objectives is as follows:**

Objective 1. Restore 30 windbreaks and plant 5000 trees and or shrubs.

- Number of windbreaks completed - 28
- Total miles of windbreaks completed -14
- Number of counties assisted - 8
- Average time to complete a windbreak - 14 days
- Number of O&M windbreaks (clean-up) completed - 9
- Number of fully planned windbreaks completed - 19
- Soil loss reduction -12 windbreaks with reduction, 16 windbreaks have potential for soil loss reductions
- 20,000 trees have been planted ( in renovated shelterbelts/windbreaks, eroded and gullied areas, in outdoor classrooms and special community projects that met the AmeriCorps Objectives ).

Objective 2. Increase public awareness - Survey support and encourage media coverage.

- Survey of public participation has not been developed.
- Participation is evident with numerous requests for AmeriCorps assistance by landowners ( Approx. 300 ).
- Numerous programs have been given to groups and information handouts.
- Three TV Coverages of activities ( Agency MOU Signing / 50 people - Oklahoma Launch / 300 people - 60th Celebration and AmeriCorps Recognition / 150 people, banquet and 300 people, Site 1 )
- Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman Magazine ( Two feature stories, AmeriCorps and Their Service also Site#1, Shelterbelts and AmeriCorps )

Objective 3. Increase public awareness - Develop informational materials.

- Numerous articles and informational materials are enclosed for support of the project that have lead to increased assistance in windbreak restoration and public participation.
- Approximately 40% of the 23 western counties have received requests for increased windbreak restoration. Eight counties are actively involved with shelterbelts/windbreaks being restored or renovated.

**5. Primary accomplishments:**

- AmeriCorps Members have had the opportunity for self-development in media interviews, presentations to groups, leadership roles, service to others and the responsibility of teamwork.
- Communities are receiving benefits from AmeriCorps Members involvement and local purchases made for equipment and supplies that support the project whenever possible.

**6. Projected outcomes for next quarter:**

- Numbers of windbreak restorations should be about forty (ten more than goaled) , depending on the weather. The Environment Corps was able to get a quick start on tree and shrub planting this quarter due to good weather, available plants and local people and agency support. There has been an increase of trees planted in renovated shelterbelts/windbreaks and special community service projects.
- From 0-1st Qtr. to 20,000 2nd Qtr
- A survey of public participants will be developed for input into the programs support, successes and needed improvement.
- Media activities should still be high with the 60th Celebration of the first shelterbelt/windbreak planted and the Americorps Recognition in March, 1995.
- Increase of counties participating in the project and

numbers of landowner requests for assistance.

-Request for expansion of the present project area to include seven more counties and three more corps

**7. Primary Challenges;**

-Maintaining enthusiasm and numbers of AmeriCorps Members as term of service nears end and nice weather appears.

-Funds to maintain equipment and provide supplies.

-Setting up opportunities for members to train, interact and complete the project.

**8. Primary training and technical assistance needs:**

-These are being met through a cooperative effort of state and local partners with NRCS.

**9. Media coverage:**

-Newspaper and magazine clippings are enclosed.

-Slides and pictures are enclosed

-Videotapes are being reproduced.

-Other items are enclosed, only a representative sample.

-AmeriCorps Displays were setup at one national meeting and two state meetings and attended to by members at the state meetings.

**10. Other creative documentation is enclosed.**

Prepared by



LeRoy Tull

Director Special Initiatives

AmeriCorps Project Director

April 10, 1995 ( 2nd Qtr Report )

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

Community Resource Conservation Center  
2115 SE Morrison  
Portland, Oregon 97214  
(503) 231-2270 voice (503) 231-2271 fax

---

DATE: 11 April 1995  
TO: Paula Jones, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
FROM: Steve Fedje, NRCS, Portland Field Office  
SUBJECT: AmeriCorps/EnviroCorps

Administering Americorps pay has been a challenge. - I wish we could get a monthly living stipend.

HOWEVER, the Americorps teams have put more conservation on the ground in 6 months than all the friends groups and I could do in 3 years. They're excellent!

---

The Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
formerly the Soil Conservation Service,  
is an agency of the  
United States Department of Agriculture

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

WEDNESDAY

# The Oregonian

AM

SURPRISE EDITION

FEB. 22, 1995

PORTLAND, OREGON

15 CENTS



**WEATHER**  
Fog early, then sunny and warm Wednesday. High 64, low 42.  
**BACK OF SPORTS**



**◀ 'POLITICALLY INCORRECT':** Teckling subjects too touchy for other 'ate-night TV hosts is all in a night's work for The Comedy Central's Bill Maher/ LIVING, E1



**◀ HOMECOMING SPOILED:** Clyde Drexler scores 29 points in his home debut with the Houston Rockets, but San Antonio beats Houston 96-97/ SPORTS, B1

## The AmeriCorps way

By MICHAEL A. W. OTEY  
of the Oregonian staff

In Portland, members of the national service program tell what it's all about.

From the bottom of the unfinished staircase, over the sound of hammers, electric drills and power saws in motion, Kristi Mergenthaler hummed a sweet melody as she walked the frame of a doorway to an upstairs bedroom.

"Oh, Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes-Benz."

The 25-year-old single mother of a 3½-year-old son broke into song while standing on a chair to reach the top of the doorway.

"My friends all drive Mercedes. I must make amends."

She sang with an argyle tone a song that Janis Joplin popularized with her trademark raspy voice.

"We've had a lot of help here -- so help from my friends."

Mergenthaler crooned as she evenly applied the white

caulking paste to the frame's crevices.

"Oh, Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes-Benz."

As Mergenthaler switched from singing to humming, the hammering, drilling, sawing and gabling continued in the two-level, three-bedroom house she was helping build for a low-to-moderate-income Portland family.

But Mergenthaler, a Portlander with an upbeat attitude and a ready smile, could end up singing the blues — joined by a chorus of thousands in Oregon and the rest of the nation.

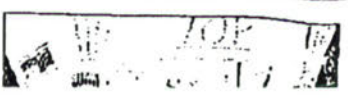
If some members of Congress have their way, a new national program aimed at improving various facets of community life, AmeriCorps, will be axed.

AmeriCorps is the low-wage, public-service jobs program created by President Clinton to promote and encourage ser-

Please turn to AMERICORPS, Page A11

REPUBLICAN  
DULETTE  
e 1996 GOP  
se dated Feb 14

### Weary solo balloonist lands after record flight



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# MEN'S BOOTS

## SAVE 25-50% ON STYLES FROM DEXTER, TIMBER

**Bottom-up structure**  
 AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Its bottom-up structure is controlled by state commissions appointed by the governors.

"I like to think of our role as an investment banker investing in local communities, rewarding the programs doing well with growth possibilities and making sure those not working are not re-funded," said Eli Segal, who heads the program and has the title of chief executive officer.

"This is like a start-up business, designed with the support of moderate Republicans, which believes that delivery systems as close as possible to the customer will bear fruit in terms of quality."

But many congressional Republicans maintain that AmeriCorps is just another government program the country does not need and cannot afford at this time.

"If you're going to get to a balanced budget, and your choice is having a nice little government bureaucracy that runs people around the country doing nice things or taking care of people with severe disabilities, where is each one on the priority list?" House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., said in a recent interview with The New York Times. "It just strikes me that on any reasonable list that gets to a balanced budget, this is a long way below the line of what doesn't survive."

But Mergenthaler and others in Oregon affiliated with AmeriCorps think the program provides an invaluable service to communities and should not be scrapped.

Marlis R. Miller, the executive director of the Oregon Commission for National and Community Service, which administers AmeriCorps programs in the state, said 400 AmeriCorps members work in 18 programs throughout the state.

**20,000 participants**  
 With 20,000 participants to start, AmeriCorps was launched in September. Its initial budget was \$376 million.

For fiscal year 1995, the program's budget is \$580 million to support 33,000 participants, who receive close to the minimum wage, limited health care coverage and child care.

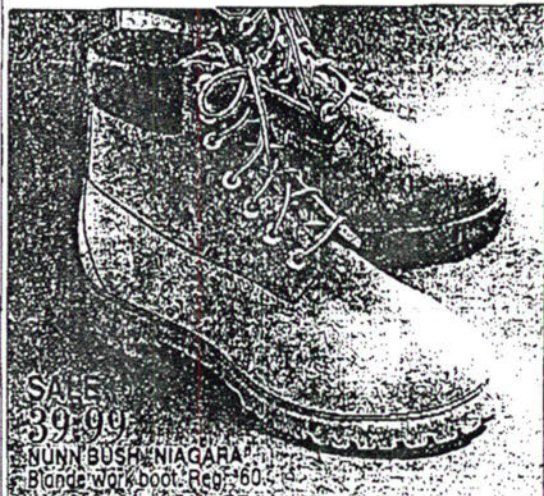
They also get a \$4,725 tuition grant per year of service in the program, earned after about 1,700 hours of work.

Participants are allowed to serve for two years to qualify for a maximum tuition award of \$9,450. The money may be used to cover future or current college expenses or to repay existing student loans.

Mergenthaler's son, Taro, is in day care paid through the Northwest Service Academy, the AmeriCorps program she works for.

During a break from working on the Northeast Portland house, several AmeriCorps members, including Mergenthaler, took time out to address the controversy surrounding the program.

The house is a Habitat for Humanity project but is being built with the aid of people working with North-



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# MEIER & FRAN

## Recycled: Hard labor mixes with organizing

Continued from Page 1  
Columbia Slough.

A longtime resident of the area, Metro Councilor Ed Washington, supports the project.

"These ponds and sloughs were where many of us were exposed to the basic sciences — where we learned about tadpoles, frogs and plants," said Washington. "By giving young people part of the responsibility to restore them, they'll come away with a better appreciation of these special places."

Of immediate concern to Morgan, though, is the small mountain of scrap metal, plastic pipe, machine parts and creosote-treated lumber dumped near the ponds.

AmeriCorps workers hired for the restoration will earn about \$4 an hour for their work, and, by year's end, receive a \$4,725 college tuition waiver to a college or university of their choice.

Dunas calls herself a "tree-hugger" who during the past 40 years has taught special education students, hard-core prisoners and well-to-do graduate students in Southern California.

She spent six years writing "The Single's Guide to Los Angeles" and was co-host of a Los Angeles television show that reviewed ethnic restaurants.

But her most enjoyable times, Dunas said, were spent leading her own tours of museums, cemeteries and shopping malls.

Crew members, most in their early 20s, marvel at her stamina, work ethic and gift of gab.

"Her knowledge and enthusiasm is a stimulation to all of us," said team leader Michael A. Burk. "She's such an extrovert that it's helped us build good relationships among the crew."

When she completes her year of service, Dunas wants to produce her own children's television show or move to Asia to study homeopathic medicine.

According to Barry Messer, urban affairs professor at PSU, AmeriCorps workers will spend much of the week on labor-intensive projects.

But, he added, the crew will also study community organizing and environmental issues while working with nonprofit groups on individual projects. Plans call for the group to canvass the old Whitaker School neighborhood during the next few weeks to encourage local residents and business owners to help develop a master site plan.



Avis Dunas (left) and Kathryn Heriza place ferns along the edge of a pond.

## Portland's slice of AmeriCorps

Oregon received more than \$600,000 in federal grants to fund 15 AmeriCorps projects. In Portland, they are:

■ **Friends of the Children:** Patterned after Big Brothers/Big Sisters Association, 24 AmeriCorps members work with at-risk second graders from five inner-city schools. Members visit homes, tutor the children and spend time with them on weekends in an attempt to help the youngsters build self-esteem.

■ **I Have a Dream Foundation:** These 24 AmeriCorps men and women have adopted nearly 300 third and fourth graders to assist them in developing strong social and academic skills. Students who graduate from high school will earn an all-expenses-paid college education from the foundation.

■ **Green Corps:** Five AmeriCorps college graduates are assisting low-income families weatherize their homes. They will teach community groups the risks of lead poisoning and help neighborhoods plan and construct community gardens.

■ **Green Lights Program:** A group of 10 AmeriCorps members will assist the Bonneville Power Administration in helping 75 area schools and public buildings become more energy efficient.

■ **EnviroCorps:** Two AmeriCorps teams, made up of 20 people, will restore Whitaker Ponds, a wetlands site near the Columbia Slough, improve public access to Smith and Dyke lakes and develop a vacant lot in North Portland into a neighborhood park.

"Right now there are more people in AmeriCorps than were in Peace Corps at its peak," said Mary Carroll, assistant director of the Oregon Community Service Commission. "Most of the public may not know about them or their work yet, but, by the end of the year, I think we'll all see that change."

PHOTO BY MARY CARROLL FOR THE OREGONIAN

Community news and features



C2



4M-MP



BRIEFLY...

Columbia Slough cleanup effort set to start Saturday

Cleanup efforts on a litter-filled, polluted area of the Columbia Slough in North Portland will get under way at 9 a.m. Saturday, thanks to a new partnership involving federal and local governments, private industry and neighborhood volunteers.

The project, part of the Kenton Action Plan, will tackle an illegal dump and adjacent transient camp site on the north bank of the slough near the Denver Avenue viaduct over the waterway in hopes of turning it into a launch facility for canoes, kayaks and rowing shells.

Participating in the project are EnviroCorps, Metro, the Portland Parks and Recreation Bureau, the Kenton Neighborhood Association and Simpson Timber Co.

Simpson, the oldest continuously operating company on the slough, leased the land involved in the cleanup from Portland for \$1 a year. "We see building a better community as an integral part of our success as a business," said Dave Berg, Simpson's safety, health and environmental manager.

The first cleanup efforts will be by a 20-member EnviroCorps crew and neighborhood volunteers. They will haul out tires, furniture and trash dumped near the base of the bridge and remove blackberry bushes that hide sites frequented by transients and drug users.

EnviroCorps is a local arm of President Clinton's AmeriCorps, a program through which funds for college can be earned with public service.

Volunteers interested in helping should call 289-6693.

Whitaker Ponds program community meeting topic

A community meeting to discuss restoration of Whitaker Ponds in Northeast Portland is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Whitaker Middle School, 5700 N.E. 39th Ave.

The session will be held by Metro, Portland Public Schools and EnviroCorps, a branch of the national AmeriCorps effort. The agencies are working together to restore the 50-acre areas of land that is bordered by the Columbia Slough, Northeast 47th Avenue and Northeast Columbia Boulevard.

The site offers the opportunity to maintain existing recreational uses and provide protection to the slough and enhance wildlife habitat and public access.

FEB 27 1995

Astoria Daily Astorian  
2/27/95

# 855. Environmentalism turns into a career

## *New generation of students want to do more than protest*

SALEM (AP) — Environmentalism is turning into a college career for many students who grew up during an era of protests and lawsuits over damage to natural resources.

The latest generation of college students wants to do more than rally at demonstrations such as the massive "Earth Day" protest a quarter century ago, says Dick Gale, who heads the University of Oregon's new environmental studies program.

"Most of them were born after the 1970 Earth Day," Gale said. "Environmentalism is a part of their lives."

SINCE OREGON STATE University started an environmental sciences program major in 1992, student participation has quadrupled.

The University of Oregon and Portland State University recently followed Oregon State's lead by organizing their own programs in environmental studies.

After graduation, some students will seek advanced degrees. Others will qualify for jobs at public environmental agencies or private corporations regulated by those agencies.

Jeff Schut (pronounced Skirt) earned an environmental science degree last June at Oregon State and now is working as a water quality scientist at the CH2M Hill engineering firm in Corvallis.

"People hear what I studied, and they ask me if I am an environmentalist," Schut said. "I tell them I am probably more conservative than they are on most things."

Schut chose environmental studies to find ways to help industries such as pulp and paper mills stay profitable while meeting clean water quality guidelines.

ALL THREE UNIVERSITY programs were organized without additional money by shuffling existing science and liberal arts courses. But the programs all differ.

At Oregon, students will be given a broad liberal arts education in environmental issues to prepare them for careers such as environmental law, consulting and ethics.

At Oregon State, about 250 students now pursue a major that will give them extensive background in chemistry, biology, calculus and physics. Degrees will lead to technical careers such as hydrology to broader jobs as consultants on environmental issues.

The Portland State program will not begin until fall, and will offer a mix of science courses and liberal arts.



STEVE KASSERMAN/The Outlook

## Time for a cleanup

Envirocorps volunteers Josh Burke and Katherine Demsky place a beaver guard around the base of a young Alder tree as Cassandra Rutherford holds it steady. Erik Steffens waits his turn to help. All the volun-

teers were looking forward to the Fairview Creek Arbor Day Work Party, this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed. For directions call 231-2270.

Date	7671
From	A. Clinton
To	Shere Sadler
Company	CO BPA Salem Corps
Phone #	231 6979
Post-it Fax Note	7671
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The Christian Science Monitor  
March 20, 1995

Clinton is begging to have it. So why is passage of a "line-item veto" so much in doubt in the Senate? Perhaps because, with Mr. Clinton likely to sign just about any version that reaches his desk, senators want to get the details right.

Congress holds dear its power of the purse, in giving the president more ability to cut pork-barrel spending, it doesn't want to give away the store.

For a time, it looked as though the Senate would choose between two competing Republican bills that would give the president more power to make "rescissions," that is, to send portions of legislation back to Congress for reconsideration. Legislation from Sen. John McCain (R) of Arizona most closely matches a bill passed by the House Feb. 6. This "enhanced" rescission would require a two-thirds vote to override any spending cuts made by the president.

But sunny senators worry that this would give too much power to the president. A bill from Sen. Pete Domenici (R) of New Mexico would have granted "expedited" rescission and required only a majority vote to

the president too easily. His measure found support among some Democrats, but lost the conservative Republicans, who saw it as too weak.

New Republicans are exploring yet another approach called "separate enrollment." In it, appropriations bills would be "atomized" into separate bills, one for each item of spending, after they were passed by Congress but before they go to the president. The president could then rescind any of the individual parts.

Democrats are expected to offer yet another rescission plan this week.

While any version would likely be of some help, the most useful bill would expand rescission power beyond appropriations to include tax provisions and new entitlements. It would have a "lockbox" feature, requiring the money saved to be applied to reducing the deficit.

And it would allow the president not only to eliminate entire items but also to trim them back, if he chooses.

Giving the president more power to rescind isn't going to solve the deficit problem, but every little bit helps.

### Will the Senate decide to help the president cut pork-barrel spending?

## A New Era for Farming

FEDERAL farm supports came in with the 1980s, when the dust bowl was literally drying up and blowing away much of American agriculture. Now, from discussions under way in Congress, it appears supports could go out with the 1990s.

The battle over federal agricultural spending has just been joined, however, and it is far from certain how much of the \$10 billion or so spent each year to support the prices of farm products and encourage their export will get chopped.

A spate of news stories about wealthy absentee farmers getting huge payments from the Agriculture Department will doubtless add to the momentum for change. But even many legitimate farmers, who actually put in long days on the land, are ready to see the current subsidy system reformed, if not dismantled outright.

Ideas for accomplishing that abound: a gradual phasing out of direct subsidy payments, expanded versions of crop insurance, raising the "floor" price paid by the government to underwrite crop storage, or simply junking subsidies altogether in favor of an open world market for food.

The approach receiving the most attention is that of Sen. Richard Lugar

(R), chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. He would sharply reduce, over the next five years, the so-called "deficiency payments" designed to guarantee farmers a price approaching their cost of production.

Others say a better tack is to get rid of deficiency payments by raising the price "floor" set by the government in order to force large commodities buyers to offer farmers a better price.

The advocates of a free market say that subsidies in the United States — which spawn subsidies elsewhere — are only keeping American farmers from a "golden age" promised by huge potential food markets in China, India, Indonesia and other population centers. If those countries are encouraged to engage in their own subsidized agriculture, they add, the trade-off will be accelerated losses of rain forests and biodiversity.

While a total government withdrawal from the agricultural marketplace is unlikely — and probably unwise — those crafting this year's farm bill should have an eye on the rest of the world and its potential as a buyer of US farm products, not just on farm constituencies back home who may have grown too used to their government check



## I Looked: AmeriCorps Works

By Amy Wu

LIKE House Speaker Newt Gingrich and fellow Republicans, I once bashed the AmeriCorps program shamelessly. I saw it as a jobs program and chastised the young people involved as money grubbers who dared to call themselves "volunteers."

But I have been transformed from cynic to convert. After months of talking with people in the program and watching them plant trees in empty lots, settle disputes in rundown urban schools, immunize children, combat water pollution, and clean graffiti-plagued streets, I am enlightened. These young people, who are labeled "slackers" and "MTV-addicted couch potatoes," are diligent, enthusiastic, hard working, and maintain a balance of idealism and realism.

On a chilly bright November morning I followed a group of college-aged AmeriCorps workers into New York's Lower East Side where they were transforming a parking lot into a bright and cheerful place. I fired hardball questions at people who were chasing parking meters with paint and scouring away at graffiti. "So why did you really want to join the program?" I asked each person, one eyebrow lifted in suspicion.

"I wanted to believe that they joined because they didn't know what else to do, that they needed the money, that this was an easy alternative to taking out a loan, that it would be a highlight on their resumes, that they would admit with frankness that the dollars were a lure, that they cared more about changing their lives than other peoples."

I did receive frank answers, but there was a freshness to them. One young woman said she was tired of having her generation labeled so negatively and wanted to show the world the other side of the story.

"I don't sit around and whine all day," she said angrily. "I keep busy. I like helping people. Is there something weird about that?"

In an age when high-profile politicians, high-powered executives, and even religious

leaders perform "random acts of kindness" for money, book advances, and appearances on talk shows, there is something rare about people doing something just because they want to help, to make a difference, to give something back for all they have been given.

A few of them grew up in upper-middle-class suburbia, went to Ivy League schools, and now want to give back to society. Others grew up in poor neighborhoods, battled the hardships of the streets, triumphed, and wait to help and inspire those still living in the now zone.

And the money? If you take the grants given to the students and divide by the hours, they are making minimum wage or less. One young man laughed at the notion that he was in it for the money. "If I wanted to make real money, I'd go find me a part-time job," he said. As for recognition? There's hardly any. "The media love to write about those slackers, hackers, and young people that just goof off," he said. "I guess that stuff sells."

After weeks of talking with these young people, watching them toil in the dangerous neighborhoods, rundown schools, and understaffed medical clinics, it was obvious that the communities were benefiting. AmeriCorps has made a difference.

AmeriCorps shouldn't be abolished. It should be endorsed, encouraged, and expanded. Thousands of young people were turned away last year because the 20,000 slots were filled. Many are waiting for more slots to open. AmeriCorps isn't a political issue like abortion, but, tragically, it is treated as one. Republicans believe it's a waste of money. Mr. Gingrich believes it's coercive and forced volunteerism. In truth, the fact that AmeriCorps was President Clinton's idea is the real reason Republicans want to kill it.

If AmeriCorps is axed, it won't be because it didn't work, but because of Washington politics.

Amy Wu is a student at New York University majoring in Asian

### OPINION/ESSAYS

An effective program for young people shouldn't be a victim of partisan politics.

TOTAL P. 01 P. 01

94%

507 231 6902

MAR-22-1995 14:42

OPINION USA

# AmeriCorps works — don't kill it

**National service helps young, elderly, communities, volunteers at modest cost. What more can be asked?**

AMES, Iowa — Here's an idea for the Republicans: Let's not pay our soldiers. Let's not pay our teachers. Let's not pay our police officers.

After all, it's their democratic duty to defend our shores, to educate our children, to ensure our safety.

Why, my own Republican senator, Charles Grassley, says, "Where the president and I part company is that he supports an expensive bureaucracy, and I don't. He

wants to pay volunteers, and I want to preserve the integrity of volunteerism."

Makes sense to me, I guess.

I'm not sure how soldiers or teachers or police officers are supposed to live if they're working 40 hours a week without pay, but the Republicans must have a way.

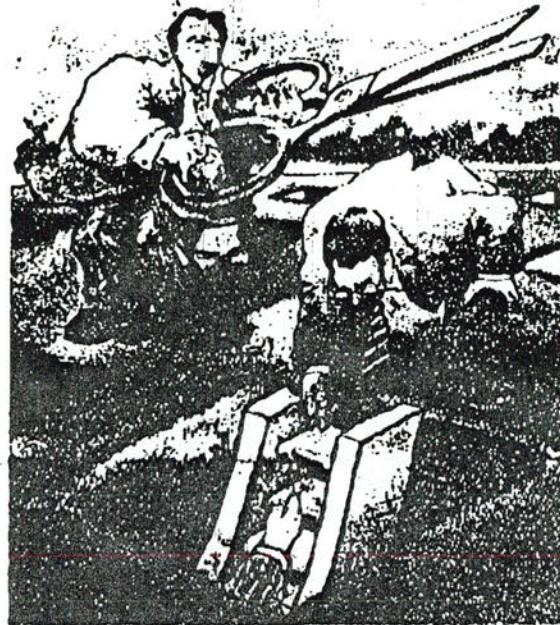
That will probably come out in the second 100 days.

Grassley wasn't talking about soldiers or teachers or police officers, of course. He was talking about the men and women who work in AmeriCorps, but it's the

same principle. AmeriCorps is President Clinton's wonderfully successful program that hires dedicated Americans to help the aged and the feeble and the young and the needy and the sick and the unlucky lead better lives.

For most, it's full-time work.

The hours are as long as those of the peacetime soldier and the teacher and the police officer. And the



By Web Bryant, USA TODAY

AmeriCorps worker, too, gets paid, though the pay is peanuts. It's the minimum wage, or less, but if workers stick it out for a year they have put in trust \$4,725 they can draw to pay for college or vocational training.

More than 20,000 Americans have signed up since national service started in October. They're working on 350 projects.

Here in Iowa, there are 158 AmeriCorps workers, ages 18 to 54, helping to immunize young people, care for old people, restore wetlands, educate migrant workers and protect people beaten up by their own family members.

In a town down the road, they're working to make sure that poor kids get to school and stay there and learn there and that they have mittens for the cold and mitts for the Little League.

Successes are everywhere.

Yet the Republicans want to kill this.

That makes no sense.

This program, run by state organizations and financed in part by local contributions, sounds like a Republican dream: It uses cheap labor to foster family values at the local level. And it encourages education with a modest stipend that a person must work a year to receive.

If it didn't exist, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, of Ga., would invent it.

But this is a Democratic program, the cherished baby of Clinton, and Democratic stuff is tainted stuff. The Republicans are out to ax it.

Their reasoning is bizarre.

They consider the men and women of AmeriCorps "volunteers," though it's their full-time job, and the Republicans think you shouldn't pay volunteers.

Grassley, leading the charge, supports "the notion of national service and, by and large, the activities performed by the spirited AmeriCorps participants."

He just doesn't want to pay them.

Grassley also says that "it appears AmeriCorps programs could be costing \$30,000 per participant" — not the "appears" and the "could be" — and he has asked the General Accounting Office to audit the organization. AmeriCorps says the average is under \$20,000, including that \$4,750 college grant.

Killing AmeriCorps wouldn't save much — \$376 million last year, \$580 million this year — but maybe that is just the start.

The Republicans have been refusing to say how they intend to balance the budget, but maybe AmeriCorps provides the clue.

Maybe the Republicans plan to eliminate the salaries of all 3 million federal civilian employees.

That would save \$108 billion.

And maybe that's not a bad idea.

I certainly know where I'd start.

COUNTERPOINTS' four columnists provide views from diver perspectives on today's issues. Wednesday: Linda Chavez on affirmative action. Thursday: Susan Estrich. Monday: Tom Snow. Tuesday: Michael Gartner.



**COUNTERPOINTS**

By Michael Gartner



By Ernie Layba

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# Metro Green Scene

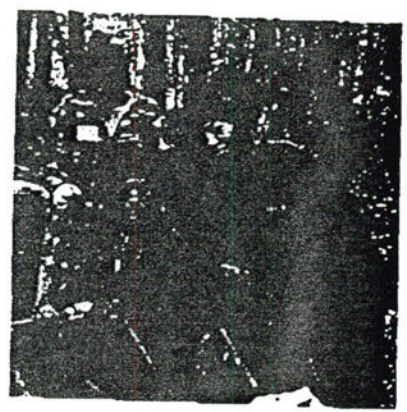
Tours, hikes, classes and more. Winter and spring 1995. Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces.

## EnviroCorps involved in greenspace restoration

Metropolitan greenspaces are better off because of a dedicated group of people collectively known as the EnviroCorps. The team is part of the new federal AmeriCorps program designed to support 20,000 adults in domestic community service in 700 communities across the country. Participants receive minimum wage, health insurance, and up to \$5,000 toward college education for each year of service.

The 20 members of the Portland metropolitan EnviroCorps team are ages 18 to 63 and come from a variety of backgrounds. More than half already have college degrees, but are either continuing their education or planning to return to college. All see EnviroCorps as a way to make a significant contribution to their community and help themselves through school.

Team leader Michael Burch's deep concern for today's youth and their environment has led to an interest in education and environmental issues. "EnviroCorps has given me the opportunity to address my concerns with a direct contribution to the community," he said.



Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, Portland State University and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service received a \$200,000 AmeriCorps grant to establish the local EnviroCorps team. The team works at Smith and Bybee lakes, Whitaker ponds in Northeast Portland, throughout the Columbia Slough watershed and other metropolitan sites. Work includes habitat restoration, trail improvements, urban tree planting, sign installation and community involvement.

**METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES**

*Spring '95*

# NATURAL AREAS

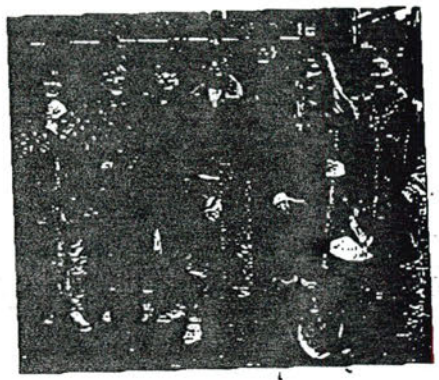
## IMPORTANT FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

*Urban streams  
are important  
for water  
quality, flood  
control and fish  
and wildlife  
habitats.*

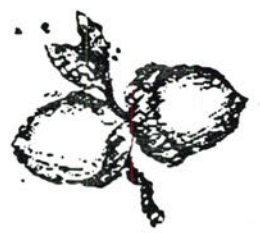
### **EnviroCorps pitches in**

Other restoration work has been done by members of EnviroCorps, a branch of AmeriCorps — a new federal program that hires adults seeking college educations and work experience to do community service work

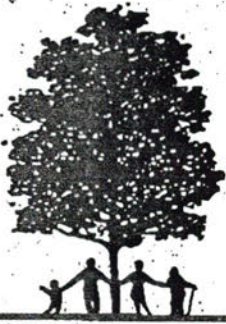
across the nation. Metro, Portland State University, the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service sponsor the local EnviroCorps. The team's work focuses on urban park and greenspace restoration projects, primarily within the Columbia Slough watershed.



Twenty members, aged 18 to 63, were recruited for work such as removing pest plants, planting native vegetation and improving trails at various metropolitan sites. For their efforts, EnviroCorps members receive minimum wage, health insurance and up to \$4,725 toward their college education for each year of service.



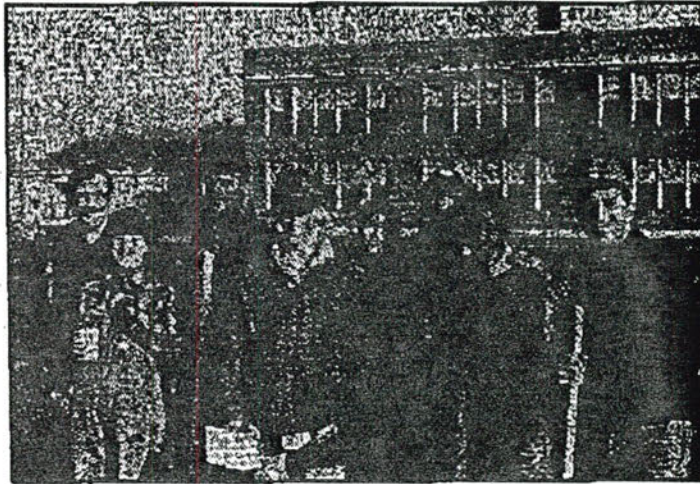
*Teaching young  
people about  
the outdoors is  
a long-term  
investment in  
the future  
quality of  
our natural  
environment.*



# Tree Connections

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY FRIENDS OF TREES

WINTER 95 VOL. 7 NO.1



▲ AmeriCorps members joined Friends of Trees, business owners, and Multnomah County Commissioner Gary Hansen (far left) in planting trees in the St. John's Business District. Aided by the City of Portland Forestry Division, who lowered the 900 pound trees into their holes, AmeriCorps participants helped plant 85 Columnar Sentry Norway Maples along North Lombard Street.  
(photo by David Manhart)

## AMERICORPS TO THE RESCUE

Participants in President Clinton's environmental service program, AmeriCorps, have become key allies of Friends of Trees this fall. Members of two AmeriCorps programs, the EnviroCorps, based at Portland State University, and the Northwest Service Academy, based at the Columbia Gorge Ranger District in Troutdale, have helped with various FOT projects. They planted trees in Cathedral Park, along North Lombard Street in the St. Johns neighborhood, and in Lower Macleay Park. Several AmeriCorps members participated in our crew leader training session and will be serving as crew leaders for the upcoming season. Others will be helping to dig holes for many of our neighborhood projects. Thank you AmeriCorps!

# FAIRVIEW

## CITY HALL UPDATE

300 Harrison Street, PO Box 337, Fairview, Oregon, 97024 - Early Spring Edition - February/March 1995



### **Envirocorps**

With rubber boots and work clothes on, these young people are helping to enhance and restore native vegetation to the creeks in our area. As ENVIROCORPS members, they have been working with the Fairview Creek Watershed Conservation Group. Already, they have been instrumental in restoring bankside plantings along the creek near the Country Inn Restaurant in Fairview and continue to assist at numerous other sites along the Columbia Slough.

The development firm of Holt & Haugh is looking at opportunities for sharing plant material for these same activities.

We would like to thank them for helping with these important endeavors.

- Fairview Creek Watershed Conservation Group

# The Oregonian

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1995

## Don't ditch AmeriCorps

*New national service program deserves a chance*

Congress shouldn't pull the plug on a national service program that's been operating for barely five months — and is already bigger than the Peace Corps.

Republican leaders have proposed stripping all funding for AmeriCorps, the national service program set up by the last Congress. In exchange for two years of public service, the program offers a small living allowance, limited health care coverage and up to \$9,450 in college tuition credits.

It was launched last September, fulfilling one of President Clinton's campaign pledges. A similar program had been proposed during the Bush administration as a peacetime alternative to military service.

In Portland, AmeriCorps volunteers are tutoring inner-city students, weatherizing older homes and restoring wetlands and a North Portland park.

Critics have attacked it as an echo of big government programs that the country doesn't need and the public no longer supports. They've argued that providing any incentive undermines the spirit of voluntarism.

That makes as much sense as suggesting that military service go unpaid. It also ignores two growing na-

tional needs: first, for social service workers, such as teachers' aides, environmental workers and police cadets; and second, for students to find ways to help pay for their college educations.

Both of these fit into a public good that requires better-educated, more community-oriented citizens.

AmeriCorps was scaled back to a \$376 million budget and 20,000 service workers before its launch. With budget considerations before the current Congress, it may not be able to grow as fast as the administration envisioned.

The program helps foster public service at the same time it corresponds to returning government to the people by being controlled by state commissions appointed by governors.

It's too early to dismiss AmeriCorps as a flop or a frill — especially after the kind of interest it's stirred.

Eliminating AmeriCorps may help satisfy the current lust for shrinking government. But before Congress decides that the program is not necessary, AmeriCorps — and the thousands of young Americans who have joined it — deserve a chance to show that it is.

## Don't abolish AmeriCorps <sup>Original</sup>

Public service program deserves a chance <sup>3/23/95</sup>

**T**his week, Sen. Mark Hatfield, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, gets another chance to stand against an aggressive and unwise House onslaught. The House-passed rescission package, now arriving in Hatfield's committee, decimates the new AmeriCorps public service program — after just a single year of operation.

That's not fair to the program, the concept, the people it serves — or the 20,000 young Americans who have put their lives on hold to serve in AmeriCorps. In exchange for their work, they receive a small living allowance, limited health care coverage and had been promised up to \$9,450 in college tuition credits.

In Portland, AmeriCorps volunteers have tutored inner-city students, weatherized older homes and worked at restoring wetlands and a North Portland park. In a letter to the editor earlier this month, Christopher B.

Johnson, coordinator of the Oregon Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, praised the work of 12 AmeriCorps volunteers in lead-paint poisoning abatement.

The House's motive in aborting this program is less than edifying. The Wall Street Journal quoted Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., as explaining, "What we're doing today is a 'get even.'"

At a time when Americans are questioning how much responsibility can be left to full-time government workers, AmeriCorps is a model of an expanded volunteerism that can offer a new approach. Early signs are hopeful; in one year, the program is already larger than the Peace Corps.

AmeriCorps is a promising program of public service. The House has done it a disservice.

The Senate — and Hatfield — can do better.

---

**Notes from AmeriCorps Team Southwest Team Meeting #1  
November 10, 1994  
Grants Pass**

Thanks for the brief presentations to the RC&D Council members. They were impressed to meet you and encouraged to hear about your work.

**REPORTING ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Let's make this exercise work for us. Stop long enough to consider and revel in your successes, and pass them on to me for the good of the overall program. In your day-to-day work, it may often be helpful to be able to cite some of the measurable factors, too. Think in terms of milestones--those stages on the road to the overall goal where you have a sense of achievement. Consider the following list of potential measures for any of the objectives:

**Measurable Outcomes**

- demonstrated ability in decision-making, planning
- increased knowledge of community from outside players (i.e., agency representatives)
- diversity and amount of reading, time spent
- diversity and number of people met; groups they represent
- understanding of groups, agencies, programs
- time spent in learning capacity
- attendance and participation numbers, diversity, regularity
- newsletters, articles
- creation or updating reference materials (i.e., directories)
- meetings facilitated, presentations made

**Activities to Reach the Objectives**

Suggestions for activities you may want to report on for each objective:

**OBJ: AmeriCorps member development.**

- Activities:**
- reading literature, periodicals, newspapers
  - attending conferences, workshops, seminars
  - attending other peoples', group's meetings
  - networking, talking
  - on-the-job training, apprenticeship
  - working with RC&D council members
  - training other people

**OBJ: Community #1: Develop projects that respond to local needs.**

- Activities:**
- researching projects, background information, resources, institutions
  - coordinating
  - developing office infrastructure
  - holding meetings
  - follow-through with volunteers and committee projects

## TEAM MEETING CHECKLIST

**The Program** - To be developed with RC&D Coordinator.

- Develop theme(s) or topic for meeting. For any session you should form objectives:

*By the end of the session, participants will be able to . . .*

Give these to any guest speakers to help them understand what you want.

- Consider any audio-visual or technology needs for presentations (i.e., ability to darken room for slides)

**Invitations/Notification** - Meeting host can decide who to invite from other programs.

Courtesy and programmatic invites (a formal, written agenda or invitation is best):

- RECD AmeriCorps Program manager: Bud Fischer, Phone 503-414-3360, FAX 503-414-3386, 101 S.W. Main Street, Suite 1410, Portland, OR 97204-2333
- RARE AmeriCorps Program manager: David Povey, Phone 503-346-3635, FAX 503-346-2040, Dept. of Planning, Public Policy & Management, 199 Hendricks Hall, 1209 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1209
- Rick Block, USDA Facilitator, Phone 503-465-6442, FAX 503-465-6483, USDA/Farm Service Agency, 55 Oakway Center, Eugene, OR 97401
- Local sponsors or host representatives/supervisors for AmeriCorps program
  
- RC&D sponsors in the area
  
- Other governmental representatives, i.e., mayors, commissioners, etc. (especially good to invite at meals or for a specific presentation)
  
- Press - invite local and regional papers to meet your colleagues and discuss programs

# TEAM MEETING CHECKLIST

Pat - you must of this!  
Drain → all Corps  
I'll work on Peace Corps recent returns.

**The Program** - To be developed with RC&D Coordinator.

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→ your invite is beautiful!

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- Local sponsors or host representatives/supervisors for AmeriCorps program  
NCED Board, URCOG - especially Curt who helped so much + see below  
⇒ I will forward your invitation to Mary Carroll @ the Or Community Service Commission & Diane Redd of Vista in Portland (231-2103) and to Arlene Tugel our NRCs state office representative. (800-826-4865)  
Natural Resources Conservation Service
- RC&D sponsors in the area  
Jan Kelley 836-2290, URCOG (as RC&D participant)  
Douglas Co. Bd of Commissioners (attn. Diane @ reception)
- Other governmental representatives, i.e., mayors, commissioners, etc. (especially good to invite at meals or for a specific presentation)  
Mayor Tyson may want to come brag about - why not let him!
- Press - invite local and regional papers to meet your colleagues and discuss programs  
How 'bout the guy who wrote the "50-something" article? I'd encourage you to ask RARE who @ the Eugene paper has been writing about AmeriCorps + target an invitation to the register/guard.

## AGENDA

USDA AmeriCorps/Rural Development Corps  
Southwestern Oregon Teams  
December 14, 1994  
Cave Junction, City Hall

- 10:30 Introduction, general milling around**
- 11:00 Health and Social Services in Rural Communities**  
Meadow Martell, Exec. Director Siskiyou Community Health Center, Cave Junction  
Karen Bony, Josephine County Health Dept. Public Health Nurse  
**Objective:** By the end of this session participants will better understand the health and human service issues facing rural communities and in particular, the Illinois Valley. The discussion will explain the federal, state, county, and private programs presently in place which provide medical and social services to this isolated community. Also, the session will look at the shortfalls of these programs and community projects created to respond to unmet needs.
- 12:00 Lunch**
- 1:30 Community Partnerships for Resource Enhancement**  
The Illinois Basin Interest Group's Forestry Action Committee  
Community Tree Planting Project  
Janet Kelly, Coordinator, Community Tree Planting Committee, USFS  
Katie Wetzle, Site Manager, Illinois Valley Visitor Information Center, Dir. Illinois Valley Boys and Girls Club, USFS  
**Objective:** During this session we will visit a recently planted riparian zone along the Illinois River which was completed by the Community Tree Planting Project. While there the discussion will focus on unique structure of the project along with its formidable successes.  
**Note:** This session is outdoors so please bring rain boots and rain gear.
- 3:00 Joel Burg, Director USDA AmeriCorps Program**  
Open Forum

### \* Selection

- Good. Need to involve members of the community who would really be working with AmeriCorps member.
- Balancing members with situations was important.

### \* Training

- Good orientation on AmeriCorps.
- Hosts need to be responsible, too.

### \* Administration

- No problems; all dealt with as they arise--Marlene's great!

### \* Program Marketing

- Need program info to distribute to communities; people ask how they can get an AmeriCorps member.
- Prepared press release for members going into communities would help in the beginning.

### \* Sponsor or Host Agency

- Informative; must be informed of local situation and help member figure it out.
- Guidance for local individual to help introduce into the community
- Gain knowledge of already implemented ideas, projects, who's who and who does what
- Provide training
- Expectations of both sponsor and member need to be clear

### Miscellaneous

Recruitment of new hosts by March 15--Amy: produce profile of host and process to request members. Members: Disseminate, participate in training or orientation of new hosts after selection.

Site visits: David and David need to contact Amy to schedule; Brad scheduled February 21.

CPR training: [April 11, Tuesday]

Resource Directory: Target audience--cities, water districts, water councils

Each member will think of groups, agencies relevant to their situations and start compiling info; all will compare notes at Drain meeting.

### Schedule Meetings

March 15, Drain (changed from March 8) - Pat McVean

- Community service theme. Will invite other AmeriCorps and recently returned Peace Corps people.
- Bring resource directory starts.

April 12, Central Point - Dave Jacob

May 10, Gold Beach - Dave Morris (outdoor meeting)

June 14, Grants Pass - Amy Wilson (fun day)

RC+D AmeriCorps talking points:

- Members work to reinforce or build capacity of local organizations
- assistance helps communities access existing resources + funding sources
- increase public participation in project design and implementation
- local match + support is substantial - nearly all work-related \$ + in-kind support is local.

**AmeriCorps Team Meeting**  
**March 15, 1995, 10 am - 3 pm**  
**Drain Civic Center**

**HOST:** Pat McVean, Southwest Oregon RC&D AmeriCorps,  
North County Economic Development, Douglas County

**THEME:** Community service by AmeriCorps members, VISTA volunteers  
and recently returned Peace Corps volunteers

Margaret Burruss, Mayor of Drain, welcomed everyone. She is thankful to have folks like AmeriCorps members who are willing to do this service for the rural communities. Drain works closely with Elkton and Yoncalla on community matters, and she introduced the mayors.

Al Tyson, Mayor of Elkton, said the city is very small, only 300 people, and there is no industry at all. They had no sewer system when he arrived, but they finally got one 4 or 5 years ago. Then they began to work on the water system. Matching funds were needed, so they raised the sewer rates to \$55/mo. The City had been renting office space from Douglas Electric, but when Douglas left the area, they had to buy the building. Mayor Tyson praised Pat McVean, who was a great help in getting the \$30,084 to pay for the rest of the building.

Butch Lee, Mayor of Yoncalla, said Yoncalla has 955 people. He is the 5th generation to live in Yoncalla, and he wanted to see things get done--that's why he ran for mayor. Their sewer and water system are not what they should be, and they basically do not have a storm drain system. He wants to bring industry into the area to provide jobs to support people--67% of the residents are low-income, which makes them eligible for more funding. They are working with Rice Hill, which is the industry part of Yoncalla, to incorporate for the water system. They are working with the county on a abandoned mill site that nobody seems to want, part of which is wetlands. There used to be mill sites everywhere. He said they do have problems with drugs--small towns tend to attract drugs.

Pat McVean thanked the mayors for coming, and she invited everyone back for activities in the area--Drain has a fair, Elkton has drift boat days, Yoncalla has a summer festival. There is a lot to do in the area.

There was a discussion of how the communities started working together. They saw each other frequently in meetings, and all agreed that most of the money in the county is staying in the Roseburg area. Determined they needed to work together out of necessity to get some money in north Douglas County.

Pat then asked everyone to participate in a exercise to get to know each other, after which introductions were made.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Dave Jacob, Southwest Oregon RC&D AmeriCorps, Rogue Valley Council of Government, Central Point**

Dave first showed the group a great watershed education video. He is working with the Water Resources Department at RVCOG. He talked about the Bear Creek project, where they are working on a large EPA grant to develop a program for the region.

**Kim O'Brien, RECD AmeriCorps, Oakridge**

Oakridge is 40 miles east of Eugene in the foothills of the Cascades. It was a mill town, but there are none left now. There are 3,000+ people, but no jobs--lots of poverty. Oakridge is on the verge of becoming a bedroom community. Kim is using the public participatory process to update land use ordinances. She also facilitates the Community Response Team. They have updated the 1990 plan after surveying the community and conducting public meetings. The focus is on economic and community development, with mill site conversion into an industrial park as a primary part of the business development part of the plan. The city is buying the mill site through USDA/RECD funds.

**Chris Bessey, returned Peace Corps, Rwanda; currently in Powers**

Chris was a volunteer in Rwanda and worked with fish culture from 1991-1993. Unfortunately, Peace Corps was evacuated when the civil war got bad. He went back to Rwanda to work on AIDS, and just recently returned. He showed some slides of the country, which is focused on agriculture. They develop right up to the jungle edge. There are 8 million people in the country, which is the size of Maryland. Of the 8 million people, 99% are working on agriculture.

Chris introduced his wife Media from Rwanda, and indicated that he will be going to school this fall.

**Mike Bordenkircher, returned Peace Corps, Togo; currently living in Milwaukee**

Mike was a Peace Corps volunteer in Togo for 2 years and 3 months, having returned recently. He worked in forestry and river restoration, as well as world map projects at local schools. He also worked with the Togolese conservation people. He indicated that there are many political problems in the country.

**Lee Russell, Chairman of North County Economic Development**

Pat McVean introduced Lee, who is her local host. Lee said that a group of people in the area felt there was a need to address the issue of economic development, and explained how NCED was formed and Pat's role in assisting the group.

**Melinda Anderson, Southwest Oregon RC&D AmeriCorps, South Umpqua Valley Economic Development, Myrtle Creek**

Melinda is working with SUVED in south Douglas County to improve the economy of Myrtle Creek, Tri-City, Canyonville and Riddle. SUVED was formed five years ago, and they are now at a point where they need a full-time staff person. Melinda writes a bi-weekly column for the local paper regarding SUVED's activities. She organized an open house early in her service to encourage public participation. SUVED recently started a series of seminars to assist small businesses in the area.

**Zetta McDaniel, VISTA, Florence Area Council on Transportation**

Zetta came to the Florence Area Council on Transportation with organization and community networking skills. Florence is isolated and the Council is collaborating to make it self-sustaining. Zetta does grant writing for them. They are planning with the City and various agencies to expand services to Dunes City and Mapleton.

**Betsy Howell, recently returned Peace Corps, Argentina; currently with Forest Service in Powers**

Betsy was a Peace Corps volunteer in Argentina, where there were no volunteers. She was part of the first group of 16 to start in the country; a second group of 15 started before they pulled the plug. Betsy was in wildlife research working with foresters, and began at the end of 1993 working on a project funded for three years to research the mountain lion. As a result of her work, Argentinians have taken over the research project.

**Brad Pearce, Southwest Oregon RC&D AmeriCorps, Coos County**

Brad first showed a video of the Coos and Coquille Watershed Associations that was created to let legislators know what is going on in Coos County--successes, funding, etc. Brad has worked with landowners on 25 miles of the watersheds to get their agreement for riparian repair.

**Dave Morris, Southwest Oregon RC&D, Curry County**

Dave is working with Curry County watershed councils. He has done a lot of grantwriting and explained GWEB and SWMG and the process. He has worked on Floras Creek, Elk-Sixes, Port Orford and Chetco Watershed Councils. He has written a grant for \$107,000. He explained the Hire the Fisherman Program and the grant request written for \$325,000. He said there is \$2.2 million available to Oregon to be disbursed throughout eight counties.

**Darcy Hannibal, RECD AmeriCorps, Farm Services Agency, Coquille**

Darcy is working on community and economic development projects in Coquille. She spends a lot of time researching grants and putting together grant lists. She has been working with Kitty Gale in the City of Powers on a sewer and water project, working with the City of Port Orford on a comprehensive plan to get funding, and has finished a proposal for RSVP to support an elder youth program. The other half of her job is outreach for Farm Services on home repairs.

**Katie Redmon, recently returned Peace Corps, Central African Republic; University of Oregon RARE, Sweet Home**

Katie works on Resource Assistance for Rural Environments in Sweet Home doing downtown revitalization and community development. They have received a grant from RECD for a flexible manufacturing facility to help small businesses develop without relocating. Also working with Sweet Home economic development group, which is sponsoring a three-day country music festival to raise funds. She also works with the Chamber of Commerce. Katie was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Central African Republic, and returned in June 1994.

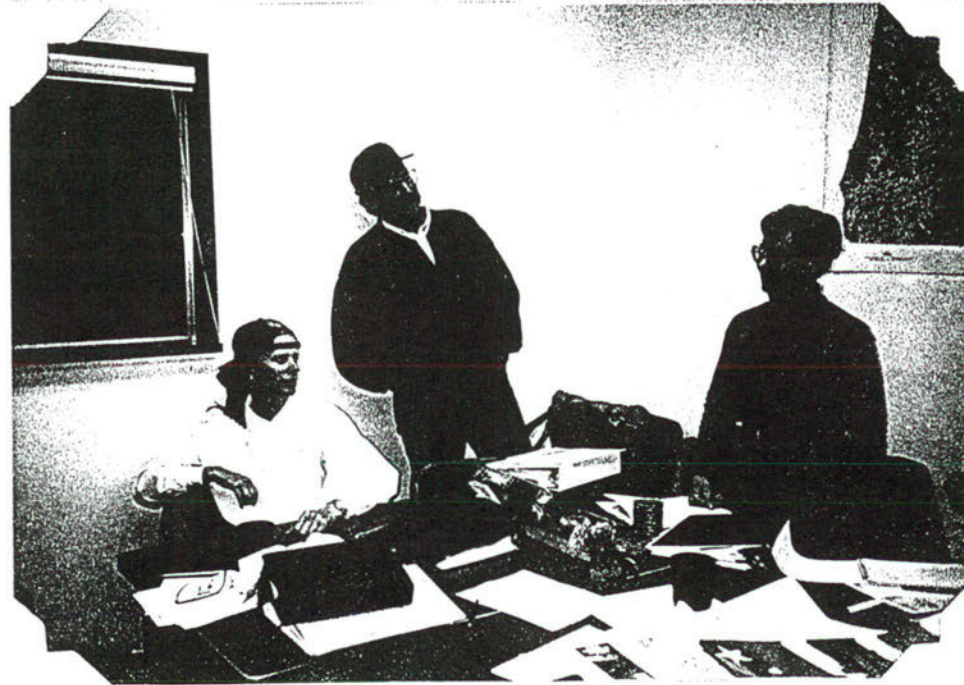
**Sharon and Tom Morris, Peace Corps volunteers in Thailand in 1965 (Dave Morris' parents)**

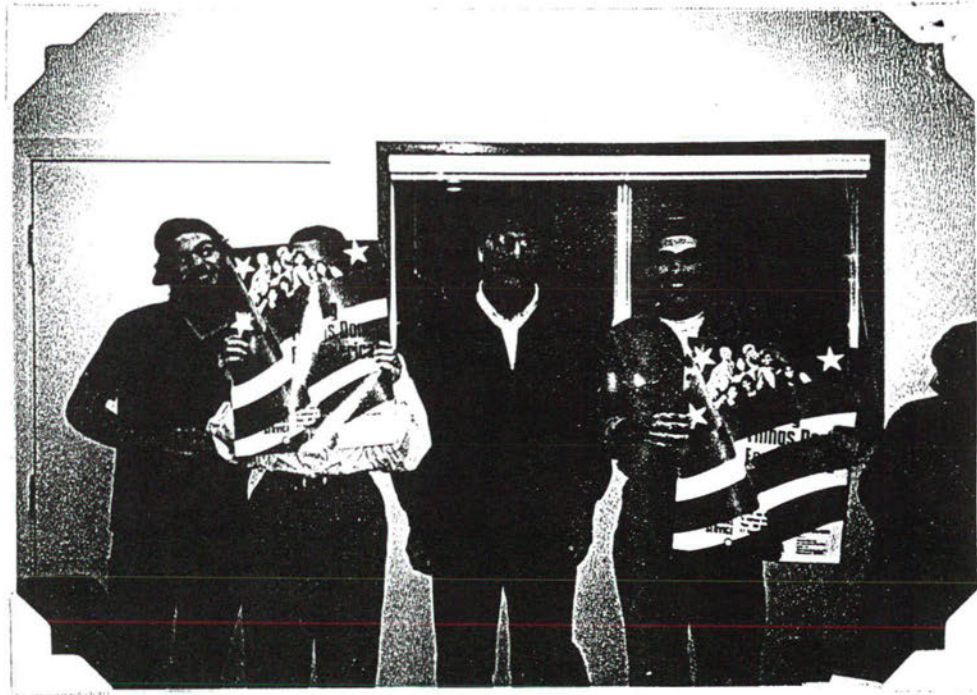
Tom worked in malaria control, while Sharon was in village health and sanitation. There were 300 volunteers in Thailand at that time, who received intensive language and technical training in Hawaii for six weeks. Sharon now runs a community health clinic for low-income individuals in Grants Pass. Tom is a doctor in Grants Pass, and volunteers time for Sharon's clinic. They were very impressed by the presentations throughout the day, and praised the work that everyone is doing. They said when they were volunteers, it took the first year to figure out what you were doing. They feel the group is accomplishing amazing things in such a short time.

**Arlene Tugel, Community Assistance, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Portland**

Arlene thanked the group for the presentations. She enjoyed listening to all the wonderful service done previously and being done now.

**TEAM MEETING**  
Friday, November 11, 1994  
RC&D Office, Grants Pass





## Corporation for National Service Operating Site Quarterly Report

1. **Operating site name:** Baker City, Oregon
2. **Program name:** USDA/RECD AmeriCorps Rural Development Team
3. **Corporation grantee name:** U. S. Department of Agriculture
4. **Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies:**  
◇ First Quarter (10/1-12/31)      ◇ **Second Quarter (1/1-3/31)**      ◇ Third Quarter (4/1-6/30)      ◇ Fourth Quarter (7/1-9/30)

5. **On what date did your AmeriCorps Member begin service or training?**

September 30, 1994

6. **Indicate (a) the number of full and part-time AmeriCorps Members at this site that were enrolled as of the last day of the reporting quarter and (b) the total cumulative service hours completed by the AmeriCorps Members as of the last day of the reporting quarter.**

	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Total Cumulative Service Hours</u>
<i>Full-time Members:</i>	1	909
<i>Part-time Members:</i>	0	

7. **Please provide estimates of the following:**

- a) **Total hours of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities:** N/A
- b) **Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers:** N/A

### **Primary Accomplishments this Quarter:**

In addition to the progress achieved in the objectives, the Member has accomplished the following:

- \* The Member has taken a leadership role in bringing together government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community activists. The Member continues to work with the NORHOPP partnership to design and develop a project that will not only be successful this year but that will become an annual event that can continue by means of the agency partnership created.
- \* The Member used the Section 504 Program eligibility requirements as a mold for NORHOPP eligibility requirements. This is meant as a strategy to find more qualified applicants for the Section 504 Program because people that apply for NORHOPP will most likely qualify for getting their homes repaired through the Section 504 Program.
- \* The Member helped compile a Farmer Program Resource List for Oregon. It includes professional contacts from the farming community and local residents that have the potential of being future borrowers for Farmer Program Beginning Farmer loans, SDA loans, and/or Youth loans. The resource list was distributed to State Office Farmer Program personnel and the County Supervisors and District Directors in the field. The County Supervisors and District Directors have been encouraged to make follow-up contact with the professionals and personal contact with each of the potential applicants identified.

### **Unique successes or "great stories":**

The Member had explained to the AmeriCorps Regional Facilitator the nature of the NORHOPP project and the need for volunteers to help paint the homes of low-income senior and disabled citizens. The Regional Facilitator was aware of another AmeriCorps Program based out of San Diego, California called the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) that could provide the manpower to help with the pre-painting work in this project. The Regional Facilitator helped the Program Director of NCCC to get in touch with the Member and they are exploring the possibility of a group of AmeriCorps NCCC Members coming out to Oregon and doing the pre-painting work during the weekdays so that the houses can be ready to be painted by community volunteers on the weekend. This joint project has promise of being educational and inspiring to the Members of both of these AmeriCorps Programs.

**Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:**

**Objective 1: Section 504 Rural Housing Repair Loan and Grant Program**

Contact members of the community in order to increase knowledge in the community on availability of loans and grants for rural housing repairs. At least 5 Section 504 loans and/or grants are submitted for approval.

*Progress:*

The Member has met with over 25 groups and has contacted over 60 people in 5 cities in Baker County regarding the RECD Section 504 Program. At the end of the second quarter, 8 applications have been received out of which 1 has been approved and 4 are still being processed.

**Objective 2: Historic Baker City Downtown Revitalization Project**

The Member will assist the Historic Baker City, Inc. to implement the initial phases of a downtown revitalization project, by working with the local building inspector to draft a second story development handbook, that follows current state and federal codes and clarifies for property owners issues of concern, researching and developing a list of technical and monetary resources that may be used in the project, and networking with property owners to identify 4 potential pilot projects-at least 2 of which should be multi-family spaces.

*Progress:*

The Member has continued to monitor three upper story housing projects and is working with building and/or business owners interested in developing their upper story for business expansion, housing, or storage. In addition to continued work on the Upper Story Handbook, the Member is investigating funding for the project. One option the Member is exploring is to establish an Intermediary Relending Program through RECD for Historic Baker City, Inc.

### **Objective 3: Northeast Oregon Rural Housing Organized Paint Project (NORHOPP)**

The AmeriCorps Member in Baker City, in conjunction with the AmeriCorps Member in La Grande, will form a partnership with Community Connection, Adult and Family Services, Senior and Disabled Services, and the Oregon State Volunteer Program for the *purpose of organizing a community event of painting homes* of community members that are financially or physically unable to do so such as low-income seniors and disabled citizens. To work with the NORHOPP partners to obtain paint and materials, develop information materials, application packets, and eligibility requirements. The Member will work with local service organizations to form multiple work teams of at least 10 volunteers each to help paint the homes and to find local businesses to help sponsor these teams. Work teams will paint the homes at least 12 northeast Oregon low-income seniors and/or disabled citizens.

#### **Progress:**

The Member has been successful in developing the agency partnership, designing project material, and acquiring over 100 gallons of paint. The Member is currently preparing for the third NORHOPP meeting in which the group will be developing project flyers and assigning responsibilities, such as identifying service team sponsors, volunteer recruitment, and material donations. NORHOPP is scheduled to begin painting in late June.

#### **Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter:**

The Member has been successful at explaining the AmeriCorps Program to members of the community. However, now that the community sees how the Member could help, the Member is being showered with project ideas and requests for his help. The Member is trying to stay focused on the mission of improving rural housing and has had to respectfully decline taking on additional projects.

#### **National Identity Activities this Quarter:**

The Member attended a 5-day AmeriCorps Rural Development Training in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Member had a phone interview with The Chronicle, a publication of Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. The overall purpose of the interview was to get the Member's impression of AmeriCorps. The publication is distributed world-wide to students, faculty, and alumni. A copy will be available at a later date.

The Member completed CPR training.

Operating Site ID #: 94ADFDC010  
AmeriCorps Member: Gary Timm

**Changes in Program Organization or Key Staff Positions during this Quarter:**

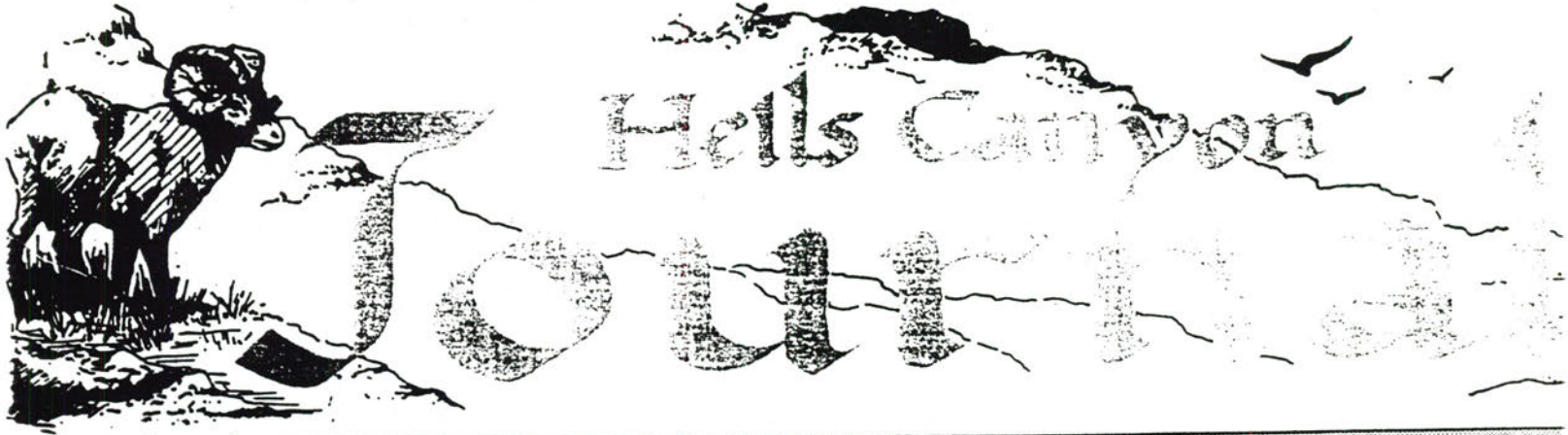
None

**Additional documentation enclosed:**

Item 1 is an article from Hells Canyon Journal, January 11, 1995.

Item 2 is an article from The Record-Courier, January 12, 1995.

Item 3 are some draft information materials developed by the Member for NORHOPP.



## Housing Improvement Funds Available

The Rural Economic and Community Agency, formerly Farmers Home Administration, has funds available for eligible very-low income applicants to make home improvements.

The objective of the Section 504 loan/grant program is to help eligible very low income, owner-occupants repair single family homes in rural areas.

The interest rate for the loan program is one percent and can be amortized over 20 years. Grants will be made to eligible applicants unable to repay a 504 loan, and are 62 years or older, to remove health and safety hazards.

More information is available by calling the Baker County office at 523-7128, or visiting the office at 3900 Midway Drive.

# The Record-Courier

12 PAGES  
TWO SECTIONS  
35¢

Covering All Communities of the Big Country  
A VOICE OF THE HELLS CANYON COUNTRY FOR OVER 60 YEARS

Area Edition ★

RECORD ESTABLISHED AT HANES 1981

BAKER CITY, BAKER COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, January 12, 1989, 5:00 PM, 50¢ PER COPY

VOLUME 96, NUMBER 7

## Americorps Comes To County Area

Americorps is the new national service initiative signed into law by President Clinton. The program is designed to be locally driven, offering resources to communities to design and implement their own solutions. The Americorps National Service Network currently consists of over 350 different programs across the nation. One of these programs is about to be initiated here in Baker and Grant counties by a local resident, Gary Timm.

Gary is a 1989 graduate of Baker High School and a 1993 graduate of Lewis and Clark College where he majored in political science. In addition to his studies at the university, Gary became involved with a group of student volunteers known as "Fearless Leaders", who worked with learning disabled children. His first assignment after college was working as a campaign manager for Aniteo (Anitra) Rasmussen's successful bid for a House seat in District 11.

With the elections over, Gary weighed the options of continuing to work in the political arena in Salem and decided he wanted to come back home to Baker City and gain additional working experience. He became interested in Americorps after considering the various other ways to put his education to the best use for himself and others. Both the Peace Corps and VISTA presented challenges that were appealing to Gary, but Americorps offered the real possibility of coming back to his home town community and making a differ-

Gary will be bringing two different programs to the area working out of the Rural Economic Development office. The first is the 504 Rural Housing program. This is the section of the housing code that provides for home improvement repair grants and loans for seniors and very low income home owners. Gary will begin contacting the mayors and community leaders in Baker and Grant counties this month to set up dates for Community Meetings to explain in a town hall setting how the program works and to obtain input into how Americorps can best help all communities.

The second, and possibly the most ambitious program is in conjunction with Historic Baker City, Inc. on a four step plan to bring affordable housing into the downtown area. By utilizing the upper floors of the buildings in the downtown area, a more active and vital downtown can be achieved. The *Record-Courier* will continue to report on this program as it develops.

It is important to note that while Gary is located in the Baker County Rural Economic and Community Development office, Americorps is not a federal, state or county agency. Gary receives a minimal living stipend of \$7,500.00 per year and at the end of his one or two year contract will receive an award of up to \$4,725.00 for each year of service to apply to college

loans or to further his education.

The basic mission of Americorps contains four components: getting things done, strengthening communities, encouraging responsibility and expanding opportunity. These four components apply equally to the individual volunteer as well as the communities involved.

This is truly one of the few government initiatives that merits our involvement as citizens to make a difference in our own back yard, he noted. The fact that it is controlled on a local level and not set down in a book of regulations gives Baker and Grant counties a means of identifying and solving the problems that we feel need to be addressed, he added.

# NORHPP

## Northeast Oregon Rural Housing Paint Project serving Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa Counties "Come Paint With Us!"

### PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

Mittie Dean	Community Connections of NE Oregon	963-3168, fax 963-3187
Eva McClune	Community Connections of NE Oregon	963-3186, fax 963-3187
Sherry Schaer	Community Connections of Ne Oregon	523-6591, fax 523-6592
Mary Carpenter	Community Connections of NE Oregon	523-6591, fax 523-6592
<hr/>		
Jong-kook-Han	Rural Economic and Community Development	963-3035, fax 962-1022
Gary Timm	Rural Economic and Community Development	523-7128, fax 523-2184
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Denny Fryrear:	Senior and Disabled Services	963-7276
Libby Alexander:	Senior and Disabled Services	523-5846
<hr/>		
Paul Conway:	Adult and Family Services	523-3648
Gerry Bogart:	Adult and Family Services	523-3648

The NORHPP Advisory Group consist of people from both Baker and Union Counties. The group will be responsible for the planning, implementation, and oversight of the Northeast Oregon Rural Housing Paint Project. Rotating locations from Baker to LaGrande, the group will meet monthly. Additional information is available by calling either Mittie Dean, or Jong-kook-Han in LaGrande, or Gary Timm in Baker City.

# NORHPP

**Northeast Oregon Rural Housing Paint Project**  
serving Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa Counties  
**"Come Paint With Us!"**

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

- County Involvement: Baker, Grant, Union, Wallowa
- Service Target: Eligible, seniors and/or disabled citizens who need the assistance of a 'Service Team'.
- Service Goal: Bring community members, organizations, and agencies together for paint project.
- Service Team: Each 'Service Team', sponsored by a local business(s), will have (10) local citizens.
- Service Organizations: Chamber, VFW, Elks, Lions, AmeriCorps, Senior Center, Churches, Schools, Downtown Business Association, and local, State, Federal agencies. (sample)
- Community Sponsors: Ace Hardware, Big 'V' Department Store, Art Craft Paint, Coast to Coast, area contractors, real estate groups, banks, and utilities. (sample)
- Accomplishment: Assist those in need, bring the communities together to promote community service, and develop a program that becomes an annual, spring, community clean-up event.

# NORHPP

## Northeast Oregon Rural Housing Paint Project serving Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa Counties "Come Paint With Us!"

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

You may be eligible for the Northeast Oregon Rural Housing Paint Project if you meet the following requirements.

1. Be a citizen of the United States
2. Be an owner of, and live in, the home listed on the application
3. Be at least 62 years young
4. Be unable to obtain necessary credit from conventional sources
5. Live in the home at least (3) years following Painting
6. Participate in, or contribute to, the painting project
7. Adjusted Income limits: (1) person \$11,150, (2) person \$12,750, (3) person \$14,350 per year after taxes

### ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME

1. Gross household income (all wages, pensions, interest, social security, public assistance, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Subtract \$480 for each minor child (under 18 years) in the household. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Subtract \$480 for each child (over 18 years) who is disabled, handicapped, or student. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Subtract any medical expenses over 3% of your annual income \$ \_\_\_\_\_
5. ADJUSTED GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME (1 minus 2, 3, 4) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Corporation for National Service Operating Site Quarterly Report

1. **Operating site name:** La Grande, Oregon
2. **Program name:** USDA/RECD AmeriCorps Rural Development Team
3. **Corporation grantee name:** U. S. Department of Agriculture
4. **Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies:**  
◇ First Quarter (10/1-12/31)      ◇ Second Quarter (1/1-3/31)      ◇ Third Quarter (4/1-6/30)      ◇ Fourth Quarter (7/1-9/30)

5. **On what date did your AmeriCorps Member begin service or training?**

September 30, 1994

6. **Indicate (a) the number of full and part-time AmeriCorps Members at this site that were enrolled as of the last day of the reporting quarter and (b) the total cumulative service hours completed by the AmeriCorps Members as of the last day of the reporting quarter.**

	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Total Cumulative Service Hours</u>
<i>Full-time Members:</i>	1	917.5
<i>Part-time Members:</i>	0	

7. **Please provide estimates of the following:**

- a) **Total hours of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities:** N/A
- b) **Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers:** N/A

**Primary Accomplishments this Quarter:**

In addition to the progress achieved in the objectives, the Member has accomplished the following:

- \* The Member performed outreach in Union County for the RECD Section 504 Program by attending a town hall meeting and educating the town council and the public, as well as by contacting two local ministers, the chairman of the ministerial association, and over twelve case workers at the Senior and Disabled Service Division. As a result of this outreach, the Member assisted 7 people to apply, of which one has been approved and 4 are being processed.
- \* The Member contacted the city manager of Elgin about developing and promoting the use of the Rural Development Information Net through the Internet in an attempt to bring other Union County rural communities together by sharing information and discussing rural development and community survival issues.
- \* The Member is collaborating with the AmeriCorps Member in Baker City for the purpose of organizing a community event of painting homes of at least 12 low-income senior and disabled citizens. The Member is involving state agencies and local non-profit organizations to assist in the implementation of the plan.
- \* The Member helped compile a Farmer Program Resource List for Oregon. It includes professional contacts from the farming community and local residents that have the potential of being future borrowers for Farmer Program Beginning Farmer loans, SDA loans, and/or Youth loans. The resource list was distributed to State Office Farmer Program personnel and the County Supervisors and District Directors in the field. The County Supervisors and District Directors have been encouraged to make follow-up contact with the professionals and personal contact with each of the potential applicants identified.

**Unique successes or "great stories":**

The Member was concerned about the sense of disunity felt by all the USDA agencies co-located with RECD at the County Building were feeling. Even though these agencies are only a wall apart, they seldom associate with each other. The Member came up with the idea of forming a community softball league that would include employees from RECD, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Consolidated Farm Services Agency, Oregon Extension Service, and Forrest Service's Fish & Wildlife Division. The Member located a local business that was willing to sponsor the team for the summertime games by paying for the registration fee and providing them uniforms.

**Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:**

**Objective 1: City of Elgin Housing Preservation Grant**

To assist HELP, Inc. to verify eligibility of selected recipients, determine preservation needs, identify environmental effects, perform the work, and monitor/inspect the work performance. To assist the candidates of the Housing Preservation Grant in the application process for FmHA's Rural Housing Repair Loans and Grants. P

*Progress:*

The Member facilitated the award of eleven bids to housing contractors, and so far five homes are completed and the remaining six are in the process. The Member assisted two recipients of the Housing Preservation Grant in applying for RECD Section 504 loans and grants and both of them received a \$5,000 grant. The Member will continue to monitor the construction progress.

**Objective 2: Self Help Technical Assistance Grant**

To assist a non-profit organization to apply for FmHA's Self-Help Technical Assistance Grant to develop home sites to be sold to applicants on a non-profit basis. The member will contact applicants that were eligible for FmHA Home Ownership loans, but were not approved because of a reduction in FmHA funds for this program, to encourage them to apply for a self-help housing loan.

*Progress:*

The Member met with the mayor of Joseph and discussed the Self-Help Technical Assistance Grant. The Member encouraged Community Connection to begin compiling information for the grant proposal, and as a result, they posted a public announcement in the local newspaper advising the public of the intended self-help housing project application. Assisted in identifying possible housing construction sites by soliciting information from the city planner of La Grande for both current and future residential zones.

**Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter:**

The Member is frustrated with the progress of the self-help grant proposal. The Member feels that Community Connection may not have the leadership and technical skills to administer the grant.

**National Identity Activities this Quarter:**

The Member attended a 5-day AmeriCorps Rural Development Training in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Member has taken an active interest in becoming an integral part of the community. The Member is a clarinet player on the La Grande Community Band and will be performing in a concert for the community in April. The Member wears his AmeriCorps pin for band rehearsals and has intentions to wear it in the upcoming concert with the intention of making the community aware of another one of the many roles that AmeriCorps plays in the community.

The Member completed CPR training.

**Changes in Program Organization or Key Staff Positions during this Quarter:**

None

**Additional documentation enclosed:**

Item 1 is an article from The Observer, January 31, 1995.

Item 2 is an article from The Wallowa County Chieftain, February 1, 1995.

Item 3 is a set of "before and after" photographs of a home that was repaired under the City of Elgin Housing Preservation Grant.

# AmeriCorps lends energy to agency endeavors

Coos Bay native earns cash, education grants by helping low-income folks find home loans

By Dick Mason  
Observer Staff Writer

He once restored forests in Kenya and is now helping people rebuild homes in Northeast Oregon.

Meet Jong-Kook Han, an AmeriCorps "volunteer" based in La Grande. AmeriCorps is President Bill Clinton's national service program.

Han is a rural development advisor for USDA Rural Economic and Community Development, formerly known as the Farmers Home Administration.

In Northeast Oregon he helps low-income people obtain grants and loans through the government for things such as home restoration, furnaces, septic tanks and weatherization.

"He has helped a lot with community outreach. We have been able to serve more people in less time because of him," said Steve Troendle, county supervisor for Rural Economic and Community Development.

Troendle said Han is a quick study and has exceptional communication skills.

Han said his job has been satisfying because it has given him the chance to help the less fortunate.

"Some of the people we've worked with now don't have to live in constant fear that their roof will cave in some day," said Han, who grew up in Coos Bay.

He is working on a project in Elgin in which 11 homes are being restored.

Han's college degree is in forestry, but he is now interested in pursuing a career as a rural development specialist.

He said it would have been difficult to obtain experience in this field if not for AmeriCorps.

This is Han's second stint as a public service worker. From 1991 to 1993 he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya. He was an agri-forestry agent, working on reforestation and conservation projects. He also taught new farming techniques.

Han receives a stipend of \$1,000 a month and health insurance as an AmeriCorps volunteer.

AmeriCorps workers also earn education grants that can be used for college loan forgiveness or to cover tuition. They receive a grant of \$4,725 for each year they serve.

Han, a 1991 graduate of Oregon State University, may use the grant he is earning to attend graduate school. He has no college loan debts.

Han is one of eight USDA Rural Economic and Community Development volunteers in Northeast Oregon. The others are in Ontario, Baker City and Pendleton. There are now 20,000 AmeriCorps workers across in the nation.

Han, a Corvallis resident, began his AmeriCorps service on Sept. 30. He will be in La Grande through July.

In addition to rural development programs, AmeriCorps volunteers are involved in government anti-hunger, nutrition, public lands and environment programs.

The AmeriCorps program was thrust into the national spotlight a week ago when Clinton saluted four AmeriCorps workers during his State of the Union address. They sat with first lady Hillary Clinton.

The first AmeriCorps workers began their public service in September. Any American age 17 or older can participate.

Additional information on AmeriCorps can be obtained by calling 1-800-880-4183.





# Wallowa County Chieftain

Out  
County Edition

Volume 111, No. 39

Thursday, February 1, 1995

20 Pages

35

## USDA offers low interest loans for home improvement projects

Is your house falling apart? Is it drafty, does the roof leak, is the furnace on the fritz, or the plumbing bad? Help may be available through the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program.

The program, administered by volunteers in the national service organization AmeriCorps, offers low interest loans and outright grants for home improvements to families and individuals with low incomes.

Those who qualify can obtain up to \$5,000 in federal home improvement assistance, said Jong-Kook Han, the AmeriCorp worker coordinating the program in Union and Wallowa Counties.

"The resources are there, but the problem is, most people don't know about them," Han said. "Part of my job is to make people aware."

Han said outright grants or combination grants and loans are available to seniors with low incomes. Grant applicants must be 62 years and older.

But the program isn't limited to seniors. Low income families living in homes with health or safety hazards may qualify for low-interest repair loans. The interest rate on a 20-year loan is one-percent; persons taking out loans agree not to sell their house for a period of three years after the repairs are made.

Poor roofing, insulation,

weatherization, plumbing, wiring, foundations and lack of handicap access all are problems that can be corrected through the program, Han said.

Carolyn Pfeaster of Wallowa County's Community Connection said her agency is aware of many seniors who are needlessly living in substandard conditions.

"There are a lot of elderly folks who own their homes and have lived there forever. Things are just falling apart on them, and they don't have the funds to repair them. And here we have grants available, money that doesn't need to be paid back," she said.

AmeriCorps is a national service organization created by President Clinton. The USDA Rural Development Program is charged with a wide range of tasks, from improving rural housing, to developing community leadership to boosting sustainable agriculture.

Pfeaster said Steve Troendel, a USDA representative, will be in Enterprise the first and third Wednesday of each month to meet with applicants. His office is in the post office building in Enterprise.

Those desiring more information should contact the USDA's Rural Economic and Community Development office, 10507 N. McAlister Rd., La Grande OR., 97850-3035, phone (503) 963-3035, or call Pfeaster, 426-3840.

ITEM 3

City of Elgin Housing Preservation Grant



BEFORE



AFTER