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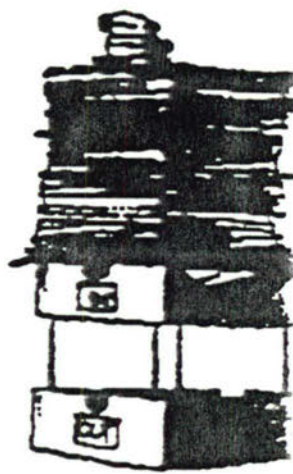
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- EAST/WEST MULTNOMAH CONSERVATION DISTRICT -
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Telephone: 231-2270

FAX NUMBER: 231-2271

DATE: 13 DEC 94TO: ENVIROCORP NHQFROM: ENVIROCORP PORTLANDRE: QUARTERLY REPORTCOMMENTS: CALL 231-2270 if questionsHARRY HOLLANDERSamTOTAL # OF PAGES 7PAGE 1 OF

AMERICORPS/USDA FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT ENVIROCORPS - PORTLAND URBAN PROJECT

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

EnviroCorps is made up of 8 full time members with a team leader and 10 part time members with a team leader. Both team leaders are full time employees. All positions have been filled since the beginning of the program, although one of our part time members, Olivia Alcaire, dropped out and had to be replaced just before the deadline. We were fortunate that Richard Melo, who had gone through the original application and interview process, was still interested. He started on working December 2, 1994, and is very committed to the program. He is ready and willing to make up hours to catch up with the rest of the team.

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

Full Time: Total hours = 1853 by November 28th.
 1488 service/365 training

Part Time: Total hours 985 - by November 28th.
 685 service/300 training

The part time team has proportionally more training hours due to their schedule during the school year. They are working 8 hours during the week and 8 hours every Saturday, which is when most of the training sessions have been set up so that everyone could be included. Their proportionate time spent in training will diminish throughout the spring and summer.

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

No structural changes have been made, except for the time that our Environmental Program Assistant will be working on the program. This has changed from a .25 full time employee position to .5. Elizabeth Moore has been hired for this position and will be working 32 hours per week into May 1995.

D. Progress towards meeting community service objectives:

Project Area I: Whitaker Pond Restoration

Objective 1: Natural Resource Restoration - To restore and enhance the aquatic habitat, riparian zone, and neighboring uplands to former natural conditions. Participants will remove pest plants and solid waste, plant over 6 acres with native vegetation, and enhance two urban

ponds totaling over 16 acres for warm water fishery establishment. Wildlife habitat will be 100% restored and water quality significantly improved in 16 acres of ponds and wetlands, and 1 mile of the Columbia Slough.

Members improved 150 feet of bank along the east pond by removing pest species including blackberries, night shade, and everlasting pea. The area was then revegetated with a variety of native species, and compost was spread over the entire planting site to improve the growing conditions. Trash, such as tires and lumber, was removed from the pond. The EnviroCorps project was contiguous with a project done in April 1994 by Cascadia Quest, a group of international students.

Objective 2: Enhanced Public Usage - The 2 ponds, totalling 16 acres and 1 mile of the adjacent Columbia Slough will be enhanced to provide habitat for warm water fishery development and outdoor laboratory for environmental education. Two barrier-free fishing docks, 2 miles of shoreline access, a flow control structure, and an interpretive kiosk will be built. Over 8 elementary, middle, and high schools will have direct access to a natural area for environmental education while providing 100% wildlife habitat restoration for 15 adjacent landowners.

All of Whitaker Ponds is privately owned or owned by the Portland School District, so the Whitaker Pond Management Plan is the first step which will lead to further project work on private property. We were able to accomplish work on a portion of the pond site due to an agreement between Metro and the Portland Public School District. In November 1994, Metro hired consultants to work on the Whitaker Pond Management Plan. The selected consultants were chosen partially based on their desire to work closely with EnviroCorps. They will involve our members in as many areas of the planning process as they can. This will be an extremely beneficial learning experience for our members to work through the planning and implementation processes with guidance from private consultants and Metro planning staff.

The members have had their first canvassing experience carrying flyers out to neighborhoods adjacent to the ponds to inform the public about the first workshop geared towards soliciting the public involvement and input in the planning process. EnviroCorps members will be attending the first public meeting scheduled for December 14th. In addition, members will be assisting the consultants with collecting biological data such as measuring water levels, water clarity, assessing the invertebrate population, measuring tree sizes, topography for raising water levels, etc.

Objective 3: Educational Placement - To advance the educational and career positions of 20 high school drop-outs or non-college enrolled youth between the ages of 17-24. Service recipients will be recruited from 4 area high school and 3 community centers to participate in the program. 75% of service recipients will be enrolled in an accredited program of higher education at completion of the program.

The recruitment effort for this part of the program is scheduled for this spring. Projects will be identified through the planning stages as the level of private landowner interest is determined.

Project Area II: Metro Watershed Protection

Objective 1: Natural resource and habitat restoration - Three riparian sites will be restored, working with local jurisdictions and citizen groups. Restoration will include channel modifications, removing pest plants and planting native vegetation along 3 miles of the Columbia Slough. 100% of the habitat in the sites will be restored and water quality will be improved throughout the 18-mile corridor of the Columbia Slough benefitting adjacent land owners and the general public.

EnviroCorps has been focusing on the headwaters of the Columbia Slough, which is the headwaters of Fairview Creek. A 35 acre site owned by the City of Gresham contains the headwaters of Fairview Creek. EnviroCorps has accomplished a 3 acre revegetation project on the northern portion of the site using all native species. Members are currently working on developing the revegetation plan for the 17 acre wetland site using available funding under a grant from the Governor's Wetland Enhancement Board that will be used to purchase plants. The City of Gresham is actively involved with EnviroCorps members to develop a plan to bring the site back to a more natural condition. The site will eventually be developed into a public park, allowing passive recreation in the wetland area.

EnviroCorps has also been involved in a commercial demonstration site on Fairview Creek. This is an enhancement effort on commercial property along 200 feet of Fairview creek involving the removal of blackberries and reed canary grass, and then following up with revegetation using native species. EnviroCorps members acted as mentors to a group of 20 high school students who assisted with revegetation for this project while teaching them about riparian restoration.

Willow and cottonwood cuttings were taken from Fujitsu property. Fujitsu is a large company in the area with property containing a large portion of Fairview Creek. Due to security issues on the property, careful coordination of the collection day was necessary. This instigated interest from employees of the company, who will be writing an article on the project in their next monthly newsletter.

Objective 2: Trail Access and Interpretive Exhibits - Public trail access of three riparian sites will be developed by connecting the sites to existing and soon to be developed public trails. Interpretive signs and exhibits will be developed along the trails to inform users of the area of the important attributes of the area and proper human usage practices. Trails, signage and exhibits will be developed and assessed using standards used by the City of Portland for trail access and signs.

The part time team has been working with Ken Staples, a private consultant who is involved in developing a landscaping plan for an Urban Forestry Demonstration Project. The project involves developing a small public park/demonstration area in an area currently without parks. The project is designed to actively engage youth in the community and provide them with an environmental education experience as well as the opportunity to build a sense of ownership in the project and pride in their community. Michael Grice, the Special Assistant to the Superintendent of Portland Public Schools, has also been involved with this effort. He has been working with EnviroCorps on conceptual planning of the project. Project implementation will begin this spring.

Full time team members have been working with Metro staff on improving the trailhead at Smith and Bybee Lakes, one of Portland's Parks along the Columbia Slough. The trailhead area was improved through the removal of weedy species and revegetation with native plants. Soil improvement techniques were used to improve the growing conditions of the site.

We are in the process of developing signs to post at sites EnviroCorps has worked on to create long term awareness of restoration efforts. In addition, we are creating a second type of sign for posting at project sites during field restoration work so the public will identify work-in-process with EnviroCorps/AmeriCorps.

Objective 3: Retaining Students in School - To provide educational and work experience support for 48 at risk high school students between the ages of 14-17. Teachers and counselors from area high schools will refer students who have academic potential but are at-risk of not completing high school. 90% of students participating in the program will remain in school and/or complete high school degrees at the completion of the program.

The big recruitment effort for this part of the program is scheduled for this spring. EnviroCorps has met with teachers in 3 high schools to establish relationships for upcoming projects, discuss project plans, and set guidelines for selecting a target group of students with diverse backgrounds who are at risk of not completing school. Some students have been selected to work with EnviroCorps during the school year once project implementation gets underway. Funding will be available through the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps and the Private Industry Council to hire students this summer, when this objective is scheduled to be met.

E. Primary accomplishments:

The program was kicked-off with a retreat which took place October 14-16, 1994. The retreat was the start of our team building effort to get members acquainted. Training completed this quarter which involved all members are First Aid and CPR, Friends of Trees Crew Leader Training, lessons on how to plant trees and shrubs, and tool safety and maintenance. The full time team started off with a tour of the entire Columbia Slough Watershed. Throughout the quarter the full time members have also received training on wetland vegetation, wildlife habitat in old growth forests, how to propagate various native plant species by transplanting and taking cuttings, and methods for tracking wildlife. The part time team has received training on computer programs including desk top publishing to design and create public information pertinent to the EnviroCorps program.

Each team member will participate in an internship from January through June. Full time members will work 1 day per week and part time members will work 1/2 day per week on their internships. We have received many proposals for internships from government agencies as well as non-profit groups. We are pleased with the selection and are confident that members will gain from the variety of learning opportunities which are being offered to them as EnviroCorps members provide service to various agencies and organizations. Internships will be assigned by January 1.

Other projects we have worked on which were not previously mentioned in the objectives section are a plant salvage operation in an area which is scheduled to be logged next spring. Members collected old

growth sword ferns, colts foot, and salmonberry for transplanting to restoration project sites. We also had an experience relocating domestic geese from one of Metro's parks to a Humane Society pond site.

In addition, we have worked a non-profit organization, the Friends of Trees, on a project in the St. John's community to beautify the neighborhood by removing 50 diseased trees and replacing them with 80 trees more appropriate for the area.

We are very pleased with all EnviroCorps member's commitment to improving their local community and eagerness to learn all they can. They have worked side by side with approximately 80 community members on projects totalling approx 450 additional volunteer hours. We really couldn't ask for a more enthusiastic group.

F. Primary challenges:

Our main challenge involves the full time team's concern about the way pay is administered. Members are paid every two weeks based on a time sheet specifying hours worked. Because there are non-service days scheduled throughout the year, there will be times when the bi-weekly pay will be minimal.

The members foresee problems being able to meet their daily living expenses during these periods and believe this is inconsistent with the idea of a "living allowance." The solution would be to pay the full time members a set amount every 2 weeks rather than an amount based on hours worked. They would still be making the same amount of money and working the same number of hours throughout the year, but every two weeks the pay would be a set amount they could plan a budget around.

Another challenge is getting projects lined up and coordinating all phases from project planning through implementation. In addition, providing the right amount of information to members to involve them as much as possible in the whole process while providing enough direction is a constantly evolving balancing act as members learn more and more.

The part time team's main concern is that they feel overextended. There is more work to be done than they have time for. Other challenges are finding work gloves efficient at keeping the members warm and dry in the wet and cold conditions of Portland this winter.

G. Primary training and technical assistance needed:

The members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in many fields to the program. However, we still need to develop a technical biology training session for all of our members. Because biology is key to our restoration efforts, we need to find experts in botany, wetland ecology, and hydrology. The primary responsibility for meeting this need will be assumed by the Environmental Program Assistant.

H. Media Coverage:

There was media coverage at the time the AmeriCorps/EnviroCorps program was kicked off. Coverage includes:

An article in the *Oregonian* on Tuesday, June 21, 1994 entitled, "AmeriCorps to help restore Some of the Columbia Slough."

An article in the *Oregonian* on September 13, 1994 covering the AmeriCorps kick-off. The *Oregonian* also published an article with photos entitled "Portland Launches EnviroCorps."

Also on September 13, 1994, Channel 12 did a brief story with Michael Burch, our full time team leader on the program.

A mid-September article ran in the *Portland Observer* with a photo on the launching of AmeriCorps with a focus on EnviroCorps.

On October 27, 1994, the *Vanguard* ran an article on EnviroCorps entitled "Johnny Appleseed".

On October 26, 1994 there was a media event set up at Whitaker Ponds. Coverage included:

- Representation from 2 local cable TV stations
- A broadcast on KOPB radio with Shirley Howard
- A press release was sent to the *Portland Observer* and the *Hollywood Star* covering the event, although they did not show at the event. The *Hollywood Star* is a monthly paper, and the article may appear in their December paper.
- *The Scanner* published an article on November 2, 1994 called "Taking a Bite out of Grime" on the Whitaker Ponds clean up project.

During a planting project with Friends of Trees on November 12, 1994 in the St. Johns Neighborhood, two local news stations, KOIN 6 and KGW 8 shot footage and interviewed participants. These stories did run on the evening news.

I. Other Creative Documentation:

Each member is keeping a journal recording for each day of work. In addition, members keep notes of weekly team meetings. The full time team has maintained a log of completed evaluations on each project, containing information on partners, available project data, reflection on project success, lessons learned, and future needs. The part time team has not due to the nature of their projects, but we are in the process of finding a method to evaluate their projects more systematically. We have recently developed a one page report to send out to partners and project sponsors to request input on their project objectives, perceived impacts, and opinions about project results.

Two of the EnviroCorps members are working on a video documentation project to record events throughout the year. Also, each team has been issued a camera to document project implementation through pictures.

1. Operating site: Resource Asst. for Rural Environments (RARE)
State of Oregon (Coordinated by Univ. Of Oregon)

Name	Location
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2. Operating Site ID # : 94 LHD 00010

3. Corporation Grantee Name: US Forest Service (University of Oregon)

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

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

5. Name of person completing this report: Drinda Lombardi

6. Position of person completing this report: Region 6 Coordinator

7. Telephone number : 503-326-3816

8. Fax number: 503-326-5255

9. e-mail address (if available):

10. Members and Service Hours[Insert data into table]

	FULL TIME	PART TIME
No. of Members allotted to your sites	5	
No. of Members enrolled on last day of 3rd Qtr.	5	
No. of Members who served entire 3rd Qtr.	5	
No. of Members who left sites during the 3rd Qtr.	0	
No. of Members who joined sites during 3rd Qtr.	0	
Total Members service hours during the 3rd Qtr.	1,775	
Total Members service hours to date	5,324	

11. Please provide estimates of the following:

(a) Total **number** of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities this quarter: 0

(b) Total **hours** of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers this quarter: n/a

12. Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:

In each section below, briefly restate your objectives and describe progress toward them this quarter. Where available, describe relevant evaluation data. Note evaluation activities in which you have engaged.

(a) **Direct Service Objectives:** As reported in second quarter, based on evaluations and discussions with supervisors, it appears that the RARE program has successfully matched skills of trained college-level participants with economic and environmental improvement needs of rural Oregon communities. Americorps members have with the help of local supervisors, developed detailed workplans and initiated specific projects. As a result, there has been an enhanced enthusiasm in many communities to participate and become more actively involved than previously, as is exemplified by the turnouts at workshops and volunteer activities.

(b) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives: Briefly restate your objectives and describe progress toward them this quarter.

The program has provided five RARE participants opportunities to apply skills and techniques taught in classroom setting. Review of supervisor and self-evaluation forms indicates a higher level of technical expertise and skills in areas ranging from meeting facilitation, project conception and implementation, grant writing, and basic computer skills. Monthly training sessions are conducted based on suggestions and needs identified by participants. Information provided at these sessions and at the community workshops have provided opportunities for increased development of career skills.

(c) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives: Briefly restate your objectives and describe progress toward them this quarter.

Each of the Forest Service RARE participants has been engaged in activities this reporting period which have contributed significantly to building community support. These efforts include engaging students in educational awareness programs, volunteers in restoration projects, business people on revitalization action teams, and diverse groups in water conservation and allocation dialogues. Based on weekly reports from RARE participants and discussions with supervisors and community leaders, these activities have resulted in some of the largest gatherings of local participants for community improvement recorded in recent years. Additionally, four of the five RARE participants have hosted open educational workshops to improve grant writing skills within their communities.

13. Other Accomplishments this Quarter: (Make note of any accomplishments or things gotten done not described above.)

14. Unique successes or great stories : (Include stories that would best communicate to the public how AmeriCorps service gets things done. Particularly helpful are stories that include numerical results and creative solutions.)

15. **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.) Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs this Quarter: None reported.

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.

16. 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; coordination with State Commissions or Corporation state offices; 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.)

1. Monthly meetings and trainings hosted in different rural communities.
2. Teaming with other program members on an individual and collective basis to share experiences and ideas.
3. Assisting with newsletter profiling both an individual AmeriCorps member and a community.
4. Attendance at other AmeriCorps programs trainings in rural Oregon.
5. Continued use on Internet linking AmeriCorps programs.

17. Significant Program Changes this Quarter: (Report staff turnover in management or supervisory positions, changes in partner/sponsor relationships, changes in board membership, AmeriCorps Member attrition etc.) none reported

NATIONAL AMERICORPS PROGRAMS WHICH WILL OPERATE PROJECTS IN OREGON

In Oregon, ten national AmeriCorps projects addressing environmental and educational community needs will begin operating this Fall, involving over 200 AmeriCorps members.

Rural Development Teams

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Site: Curry, Douglas, Coos Counties and the Rogue River Basin
in Southwest Oregon
AmeriCorps Members: 5
Program Begins: September, 1994

The Pacific Northwest will be one of 11 regions in the U.S. in which teams will serve. AmeriCorps members will facilitate project planning and development for grassroots rural development groups addressing timber and watershed issues. Members will work with existing rural development organization to enable active local participation in all phases of activities designed to improve the livability of their communities. For example, one member will work through the auspices of the Rogue Valley Council of Governments with watershed councils to assist with identification and development of watershed enhancement activities, including grant writing, fostering community involvement and local capacity building.

For more information, contact: Amy Wilson (503-476-5906)

Rural Development Administration Outreach

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farmers Home Administration
Site: Statewide
AmeriCorps Members: 10
Program Begins: September, 1994

The Rural Development Administration will recruit AmeriCorps members to work directly with rural families to provide information on programs and funding available to them for clean water, sewer and septic needs. These AmeriCorps members will work through local FHA offices, and assist the clients through the application process. One AmeriCorps member will work with the Soil Conservation Service on its Rural Development Team. For further information, contact Bud Fisher (503-326-2735)

wife in Accident

USDA Public Lands and Environment Teams

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Site: Southern Oregon
AmeriCorps Members: 35
Program Begins: September, 1994

Southern Oregon will be one of 32 regions in 21 states in which teams will serve. AmeriCorps members will serve in the Rogue River National Forest, replacing ten trail bridges crossing streams, maintaining 100 miles of high-elevation hiking trails, and enhancing spotted owl ecosystems at 10 locations.

For more information, contact: Tom Dew (503-858-2210)

USDA - EnviroCorps

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Site: Portland
AmeriCorps Members: 20
Program Begins: September 1994

Portland will be one of 32 regions in 21 states in which teams will serve. AmeriCorps members will restore and enhance the aquatic habitat, riparian zone, and neighboring uplands of the Whitaker Pond Area to formal natural conditions. Members will also remove pest plants and solid waste, plant over six acres with native vegetation, and enhance two urban ponds totaling over 16 acres for warm water fishery establishment. Additionally, members will enhance two 16-acre urban ponds and wetlands and one mile of the Columbia Slough to provide a habitat for warm water fishery development and an outdoor laboratory for environmental education.

For more information, contact: Amy Spring (503-725-5582)

I Have a Dream Foundation -- AmeriCorps Partnership

Sponsor: National I Have a Dream Foundation
Site: Portland
AmeriCorps Members: 24
Program Begins: September, 1994

AmeriCorps members will support three I Had a Dream (IHAD) Programs in Portland. An IHAD Program is one in which an IHAD Sponsor "adopts" an entire grade -- usually 3rd or 4th -- from a public elementary school. IHAD Sponsors and Program staff then provide the children -- called "dreamers" -- with a program of academic, social, cultural and recreational activities throughout their elementary, middle school and high school years. When they complete high school, dreamers are provided tuition assistance necessary to attend a state or local college or vocational school. The Portland IHAD Program will serve approximately 300 low-income, inner-city dreamers. AmeriCorps members will be tutors and mentors to dreamers and work on service projects developed with the dreamers.

For more information, contact: Laurie King (503-287-7203)

YMCA Earth Service Corps Fellowship

Sponsor: YMCA Earth Service Corps National Resource Center
Site: Tillamook County
AmeriCorps Members: 1
Program Begins: September, 1994

Tillamook County will be one of 17 sites throughout the U.S. in which corps members will serve. The AmeriCorps member will: (1) address local environmental concerns by coordinating school-based, community service clubs that sponsor service projects (e.g., coordinating a park clean-up, planting an urban garden, running an environmental symposium); (2) integrate hands-on service projects and service learning activities into middle school and high school curricula; (3) encourage the academic and career interests of students by providing opportunities for service learning; (4) incorporate the expertise of local community volunteers into service activities.

For more information, contact: Mike Ellis (503-842-9622)

U.S. Department of Energy -- Salmon Corps

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Energy
Site: Columbia River Basin in Oregon, Washington and Idaho
AmeriCorps Members: 72
Program Begins: September, 1994

The Salmon Corps is a partnership of the Earth Conservation Corps, the Department of Energy and the Intertribal Fish Commission, a natural resource agency which represents Pacific Northwest tribes most adversely affected by salmon habitat loss. The Earth Conservation Corps, a national nonprofit involving at-risk youth in urban environmental projects, will implement the program. AmeriCorps members in the Salmon Corps will work throughout the Columbia River Basin on environmental restoration of critical salmon habitats. Most of the 72 corps members will represent Native American tribes of the region. The Salmon Corps will emphasize member development and restoration of Native American culture in the region.

For more information, contact: Andy Thoms (503-231-6969)

The Neighborhood Green Corps Program

Sponsor: Green Corps
Site: Portland
AmeriCorps Members: 5
Program Begins: September, 1994

Green Corps is a national nonprofit organization which recruits college graduates to work with national environmental organizations and local communities to develop effective strategies for environmental reform. As part of The Neighborhood Green Corps Program, AmeriCorps members will work on three, three-month projects. In the Fall, members will weatherize 30 low-income homes. In the Winter, members will do educational outreach to over 1000 houses regarding lead contamination. In the Spring,

members will generate hundreds of community volunteers to develop two to three urban green spaces.

For more information, contact: Colin Yost (202-547-9178)

The Northwest Service Academy

Sponsor: The Northwest Service Academy
Site: Trout Lake, Washington and Troutdale, Oregon
AmeriCorps Members: 100
Program Begins: August, 1994

The Northwest Service Academy was funded originally as a national demonstration project by the former U.S. Commission on National and Community Service.

AmeriCorps members will serve in 10-person conservation teams. Four teams will operate from a residential site in Trout Lake, Washington, and six teams will operate from a non-residential site in Troutdale, Oregon. AmeriCorps members will focus on environmental restoration projects, such as building new salmon spawning beds, surveying plants and animals, demonstrating composting projects, clearing forgotten trails, and rebuilding community parks.

For more information, contact: Jon Stewart (503-695-2292)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - GREEN LIGHTS

Sponsor: EPA and Bonneville Power Administration
Site: Statewide
AmeriCorps Members: 10
Programs Begins: October, 1994

The EPA and BPA will work on an inter-agency program which will target 75 schools throughout Oregon in underserved areas. AmeriCorps members will conduct energy audits, educational workshops and installation of energy efficient lighting fixtures in the public schools. Energy efficient lighting will result in cost savings and energy savings for the school districts.

For more information, contact Mark Ross (503-230-5438).

PROGRAMS FUNDED THROUGH THE OREGON COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION

The Oregon Energy Corps

Applicant: Oregon Housing and Community Services Department
Location: Statewide
AmeriCorps Members: 42
Program Begins: October, 1994

The mission of the corps is to improve the comfort and health of low-income Oregonians through community-based energy conservation activities. The proposed corps would engage 42 JOBS participants -- 7 teams of 6 -- over the course of 5 months in part-time weatherization and energy conservation assistance to 600 low-income occupied homes. Oregon's JOBS program assists Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program recipients with gaining employment. Corps members will be recruited through JOBS pools in seven target areas: Southern Oregon, Northwestern Oregon, Northeastern Oregon, Central Oregon, mid-Columbia River, mid-Willamette Valley, and Yamhill County. The corps will be coordinated by the Department and 7 local community action agencies: ACCESS, Community Action Team, Community Action Program of East Central Oregon, Central Oregon Community Action Agency Network, Mid-Columbia Community Action Agency, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, and Community Action Agency of Yamhill County. For more information, contact Dan Van Otten (503-986-2092)

AmeriCorps Service to Community Project

Applicant: Central Oregon Community College Foundation
Location: Central Oregon
AmeriCorps Members: 40
Program Begins: September, 1994

In cooperation with Central Oregon Community College, local businesses and agency partners, the Foundation proposes to expand its pilot Service to Community Project through AmeriCorps. Forty part-time AmeriCorps participants would work beside Service to Community participants addressing identified community needs in the Central Oregon area. (Through the Service to Community program, area businesses provide students \$1,500 scholarships with the understanding that the students will volunteer with the service organizations of the donors' choices.) Participants would expand programs serving at-risk youth, serve in rehabilitation units addressing substance abuse, contribute to neighborhood and youth safety, address juvenile crime, and participate in water and energy conservation projects. Participants would also be educated in service-learning through a curriculum to be developed at the College designed to further educate all students on service and citizenship values and life-long commitment to volunteerism.

For more information, contact Marilyn Karnopp, (503-383-7214)

Friends of the Children: AmeriCorps Friends

Applicant:	Friends of the Children
Location:	Portland
AmeriCorps Members:	24
Program Begins:	October, 1994

Friends of the Children proposes to develop sustained, caring relationships between 20 full-time AmeriCorps "friends" and young children at high risk for delinquency, drug/alcohol addiction and emotional/social problems. Each friend would spend extensive time with four second graders selected from Portland area schools with high concentrations of low-income students. Friends would tutor, mentor, relate and teach competencies which support resilience against adversity and unleash each child's potential. Friends would help youth gain educational achievement, cultural awareness, perspective on life alternatives and opportunities, and social and interpersonal competencies. Friends would be young adults who have overcome adversity themselves and who come from the same kinds of neighborhoods as the children. Friends would be engaged in their own education in college courses emphasizing child development, child and family life, and community development. Partners with Friends of the Children include Portland Public Schools, Portland State University, Children's Services Division, Self-Enhancement, Inc., and Albina Ministerial Alliance. For more information, contact Michael Forzley (503-762-4047)

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS WHICH WILL OPERATE IN OREGON

Applicant: Portland State University
Program Name: Students Serving the City
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project Director: Mr. Charles R. White (503-725-3906)

A new general education curriculum -- with a focus on service-learning and including a senior capstone in service-learning -- will be fully integrated into the entire curriculum and will involve 100% of graduates by 1997. An ambitious effort, PSU will introduce 20 new service-learning courses and pilot four capstone courses in the first year. First-year pilot capstone courses will improve math competency of 180 families, provide management assistance to 10 small businesses in a local enterprise zone, instruct 200 inner-city children in music, and design neighborhood plans for environmental improvement for Gresham city residents. Service activities in all service-learning courses will address one or more of the Oregon Benchmarks -- a community-defined assessment and prioritization of current community needs.

Applicant: University of Oregon Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
Program Name: Resource Assistance to Rural Environments
Location: Eugene, Oregon
Project Director: Mr. David Povey (503-346-3812)

In response to changes in the use of the state's natural resource base, the University of Oregon will train 10 graduate students, led by returned Peace Corps volunteers, to serve as AmeriCorps members who will live and work in 10 resource-dependent rural communities. They will improve economic and environmental conditions in the communities by assisting in strategic planning for economic development and alternative natural resource use, helping prepare proposals for community development grants, linking communities with relevant resources, and implementing community revitalization projects. In addition, the program will create opportunities for undergraduate students to work with the graduate student AmeriCorps members in assisting rural communities. Participants will receive one year of campus-based training prior to placement, and after one year of service, they will return to the university to complete a second year of coursework and a thesis, leading to a masters degree in regional planning.

Applicant: Lewis & Clark College
Program Name: Partners in Education
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project Director: Ms. Dale Holloway (503-768-7114)

Lewis & Clark will match 72 college mentors with 78 middle school and high school inner-city and rural at-risk students with the goal of keeping the students in school and helping them set concrete goals for their education. Mentors will receive extensive training in multicultural awareness, leadership skills, and the psychological, educational and socioeconomic factors that play strong roles in the lives of at-risk youth. Mentors will serve 5,600 total hours with their mentees, supporting them and working with them to develop concrete educational strategies.

AMERICORPS/USDA QUARTERLY REPORT

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

5/5

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

1,698*/233

* Some direct service includes on-the-job training.

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

None

- D) Progress toward meeting objectives

Community Service Objective 1: Develop projects responding to locally identified needs, priorities and resources.

Excellent Progress: Needs assessment and group development have begun at all five sites. Meeting and developing relationships with key players was a critical activity planned for the first two months and all members have succeeded at this. Members have participated in many public meetings and have met individually with their respective board members. Outreach efforts have included diverse approaches, including canvassing the seniors' bowling league.

Community Service Objective 2: Grant writing, fund searching, action plan development

Excellent Progress: Little work on this objective was anticipated in the first quarter due to the need to first work with community groups. In three cases, communities have progressed faster than anticipated and are already targeting specific projects. Dave Morris, Pat and Brad are already researching grant possibilities for ideas that were evolving as they arrived. Dave Jacob and Melinda are focused on group process issues as a precursor to specific grant development, although both are preparing for likely projects.

Member Development Objective 3: Practice and learn rural development skills through active involvement in project development and implementation

Excellent Progress: All five Members demonstrate through their participation in AmeriCorps team sessions an increasing interest and commitment to rural development. Each member has developed a localized on-the-job training plan, and they are pursuing diverse opportunities to learn more about rural development. One hosting county has gotten into the spirit of training by rotating the Member through various County offices to provide a better understanding of how the county functions.

Community Capacity Building Objective 4:

Good Progress: In four of the five sites, the process of developing office space and provisions for the AmeriCorps worksite was a major achievement for the fledgling organizations and complex partnerships. The North County Economic Development group, which had no previous accommodations, now has an office and has secured a desk, file cabinets and computer equipment specifically in response to the opportunity presented by the AmeriCorps Member's arrival.

Members have improved the quantity and diversity of attendance and participation by focusing on public involvement. Development of working relationships and involving key players in the fine-tuning of job descriptions was a major focus for the first two months; leaving this responsibility in the hands of local people was a cornerstone for capacity building at the community level. Local people were active in this process and have worked hard to provide resources to support the Members. Nonetheless, they have all achieved concrete steps toward reaching each of the objectives.

E) Primary accomplishments

All five Members participated in 3-1/2 days of orientation as a group. Emphasis was placed on an introduction to the AmeriCorps Program and an overview of rural development issues, resources and skills. Representatives from State and Federal agencies, the State college, RC&D Council members, and two non-profit organizations participated in delivering the orientation program (see attached schedule). One RDA AmeriCorps member also participated.

Pat has been a phenomenal influence in pulling together three communities that have not accomplished much work together before; where previous meeting attendance rarely topped 10, she was able to bring 50 people together to discuss a regional approach to economic development. She has also already scheduled leadership training through the Extension Service, and has written one grant.

Melinda hosted an open house for her economic development group that was very well attended, highly praised and even

involved the high school home economics class, who catered the event. She also revitalized one committee by recruiting new, qualified and motivated members.

Dave Morris and Brad are both making contacts with landowners to explain riparian projects and encourage their participation in stream enhancement activities. Both are also helping local officials try to access funding for a program designed to help out-of-work fishermen, resulting in a marriage between economic development and natural resource enhancement efforts.

Dave Jacob has been a strong behind-the-scenes influence in the Rogue Valley water program. He assembled comprehensive reference guides for the Rogue Steering Committee. As a focus, he is also developing a key role with a valley-wide watershed education program for schools.

F) Primary challenges

Member support is one primary challenge. Expecting hosts to provide all daily work and travel needs has required an extensive amount of follow-through from the RC&D office. Just getting signatures on an MOU by two counties and two Councils of Government has taken almost two months. This difficulty has been aggravated by extremely short deadlines. By beginning discussions about placement and host requirements now, we are hoping to minimize these difficulties.

G) Primary training and technical assistance need

We are using local resources extensively and developing networks not only for AmeriCorps program participants, but also for the communities in which they serve. It would be ideal to be able to sponsor attendance of community members in training opportunities alongside Members, or to sponsor regional workshops relevant to community needs; funding is lacking.

H) Media coverage

The News-Review, Roseburg, OR, ran a front-page article on October 5, 1994 (previously sent to HQ).

Myrtle Point Herald, Myrtle Point, OR, ran an article in early October 1994 (copy attached).

The Drain Enterprise, Drain, OR, ran a front-page article on October 20, 1994 (copy attached).

The Curry Coastal Pilot, Brookings, OR, ran an article on October 22, 1994 (copy attached).

Umpqua Free Press in Douglas County, OR, ran a front-page article on November 10, 1994 (copy attached), to be a continuing column authored by the Member.

The Daily Courier, Grants Pass, OR, ran a favorable article on November 12, 1994, on an RDA Member who is a part of the Southwest Oregon cluster for training purposes (previously sent to HQ).

Initiatives Newsletter, showing AmeriCorps assistance in tapping into existing initiatives.

I) Other creative documentation

- Orientation schedule/agenda
- Sample monthly report responding to each objective
- To follow as soon as available: update on local contributions and fund matching.

RC&D SW OREGON P.13
503 955 9574
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**MONTHLY REPORT
MELINDA ANDERSON
AMERICORPS/SUVED**

November

Objective: Americorps member development.

- I have visited and/or talked with many rural development specialists around Oregon:
Hanan Bowman, Umpqua Community Development Corporation
Judith St. Clair, Oregon Rural Development Council
Jennifer Kang/Chris Claflin/Bruce Laird, OEDD
Treva Hunter, RDI
Anne Berblinger, EDA
Dave Spalding, Dick Ebbert/Pacific Corp
Roger Evenson, Ron Eby/US Forest Service
Mark Fancey, Univ. of Oregon
Peter Graff/Ted Werth, CCD
Doris Wadsworth/Mike Winters, Douglas Co. Commission
Jim Kraft/Rural Information Network, EOSC - I have requested help from him regarding access to a computer network. No response yet.
Flaxen Conway/Pat Conover, OSU Extension
Jane Brass, Western Rural Development Center/OSU
Bruce Weber, OSU Ag-Econ Professor

Many have sent material/literature for me to read about regional rural development. I am in the process of sifting through that.

- Reading information concerning timber issues from diverse organizations such as the Oregonian, Roseburg News-Review, OSU Extension Service, Evergreen Magazine, and EcoTrust. I have also spoken with community members about this issue and how it has impacted them. Am attempting to retrieve specific statistics on employment levels here in the South Umpqua Valley. The sense here is that unemployment is due to few timber sales and little harvesting.
- Attended NCED pre-strategic planning meeting in Drain to get a sense of how they are planning their overall strategic plan review.
- Spoke with Doris Wadsworth concerning use of RC&D tax-exempt status for SUVED grant proposals to private foundations. Doris believes this would be a good use of RC&D.
- I have talked with several SUVED board members one-on-one to get a better sense of their own SUVED goals. I met with Carol Malmay to interview her for the SUVED column.

Objective: Community #1 - Develop projects which respond to local needs.

- The Shared Manufacturing Facility Advisory Board has been determined to be a temporary body. When Green Valley Investment actually signs the deed of sale of this

facility to the City of Myrtle Creek the MC City Council will most likely appoint a commission to manage this facility. The issues of finishing the project and how it should be marketed and managed are still under discussion. The second meeting was held at the SUVED office. I coordinated that.

- The SUVED marketing subcommittee was recently enlarged from two to nine members - half working on the marketing letter, stationery, targeted audience, etc. and half working on the industrial/residential site survey. Chairs were chosen for both sub-subcommittees (Marketing and Land Survey). My role is to coordinate the efforts, communicate information back to the general SUVED committee, research background information and assist the subcommittee in determining what they are trying to accomplish and the best way to achieve their goals.
- I mailed the agenda for the SUVED board meeting.

Objective: Community #2 - Write grants and action plans for identified projects.

- Met with Ron Eby/Tiller Ranger Station to review what he has written for a grant proposal for funding this position. I will be taking this project to the grantwriting seminar in December. We also discussed how to identify the foundations most likely to fund certain aspects of this position. (Need access to foundation books)
- Volunteered to write Cycle Oregon grant for Myrtle Creek.

Objective: Capacity building.

- Coordinated the SUVED Open House which was held December 1. Worked with Tiller Ranger Station, City of Myrtle Creek employees, Green Valley Investment and the South Umpqua High School Future Family and Community Leaders club to prepare for this event. The reason for the Open House was to continue introducing me to the communities, show off our new office and display the new shared manufacturing facility here. It was fairly successful. There were about 70 people, about 10 of whom I had not yet met. There was also a good mix of people since I had printed and mailed 200 invitations to local community people, agencies and the media. I also sent a press release to the local paper.
- The SUVED board has decided they would like to have a day-long retreat on January 13 here at the SUVED office. It will be facilitated by Dick Ebbert of Pacific Corp with my assistance. There are several issues the board plans to resolve: decision on the need for a strategic plan review, organization structure, group development and fleshing out my role as coordinator. These may or may not be discussed at the retreat; the agenda will be further discussed at the SUVED board meeting Dec. 22.
- I attended City Council meetings for Myrtle Creek, Canyonville, and Riddle where I talked a few minutes about myself and SUVED and its projects. I did the same with Chamber of Commerce meetings in both Myrtle Creek and Canyonville. I plan to attend these meetings every month.
- Leroy Blodgett and I attended the Glendale CART meeting to discuss the possibility of SUVED and Glendale updating their strategic plans together and working together. The Glendale members were interested in perhaps going through the planning process with

SUVED, but SUVED members do not have that interest at this time. I believe the primary reason is that Glendale is far away (30 miles and one mountain) and SUVED wouldn't be able to help them easily.

- There has been a great deal of concern lately regarding the perceived lack of action on SUVED's part. To help alleviate that, at the next general SUVED meeting we will be asking members to activate some other subcommittees such as: business retention and expansion, tourism, and retirement industry.
- I wrote two columns for the South Umpqua Free Press this month. I plan to do this every month until someone else wants to write it.

AMERICORPS
ORIENTATION

576 NE E ST GRANTS PASS, Ph 476-5906

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 1:00 Introductions, getting to know each other
/Amy Wilson
- 2:00 introduction to Soil Conservation Service, Soil and Water
Conservation Districts and the RC&D program
/Roy Manning, SCS, District Conservationist
Jackson/Josephine Counties
- 3:00 overview of this AmeriCorps project
-project concept based on local needs
-development of overall project objectives
/AW
- 4:00 administrative issues and paperwork
/Marlene Daniels
- 5:00 adjourn

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 8:00 administrative issues
-overview of benefits and responsibilities
/AW
- 10:00 *separate groups meet.....*
AmeriCorps members: develop code of conduct
/self-directed group
Hosts/Sponsors: supervisory administrative issues
/AW
- 11:00 What will we accomplish? Assessing the impact of
the AmeriCorps program in terms of community
benefit and participant experience.
/Vicki Sturtevant, Rural Sociologist, SOSC
- 12:00 LUNCHEON w/ RC&D representatives, local program
hosts and collaborators. (no host)
**At the Country Cottage restaurant ph. 476-6882
2315 Upper River Rd Loop. Please meet at the RC&D
office if you would like to carpool.

- 1:30 AmeriCorps: the National program and Oregon
programs
/Mary Carroll, OR Community Service Commission
- 2:30 on being a volunteer...
/Kirk Brust, Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- 4:00 developing work plans, planning for training needs, developing
specific job objectives and reporting progress
/AW, Vicki Sturtevant
- 5:00 adjourn

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 8:00 introduction to the Watershed Health program
/Tim Dedrick, S. OR Watershed Health Field Team
- 9:00 rural development in Southwest Oregon
-overview of issues, agencies, resources
/AW
- 11:00 rural outreach and working w/ diverse people and views
-developing an outreach effectiveness checklist
/Kevin Preister,
Rogue Institute for Ecology and Economy
- 12:00 lunch, on your own or as a group
- 1:00 follow-up administration, travel vouchers
/MD
- 2:00 working with groups: facilitation and consensus building
/Treva Hunter, Rural Development Initiatives
- 3:00 wrap up and planning for future team interaction
/AW
- 5:00 adjourn

12. Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:

In each section below, briefly restate your objectives and describe progress toward them this quarter. Where available, describe relevant evaluation data. Note evaluation activities in which you have engaged.

(a) Direct Service Objectives:

Trail Maintenance:

Progress towards our annual objective of maintaining 224 miles of hiking trails and constructing 10 trail bridges is on track as AmeriCorps crews maintained over 100 miles of trail during the third quarter. This trail work included light brushing and maintenance to heavy reconstruction and large log removal. Members also constructed 4 bridges on the Upper Rogue River Trail and a puncheon on the Wagner Creek Trail on the Ashland Ranger District.

Campground Improvement:

Significant improvements were made in three major campground facilities as part of our annual objective to enhance developed recreation sites on the Rogue River National Forest. Crews worked at Hartish Park on the Applegate Ranger District to construct 3 new tent sites and fire grates, assemble 4 new picnic tables, restore 3 three old picnic tables and upgrade a large group picnic site to ADA specifications. Crews also dug trenches for a new irrigation system and removed over 10 yards of debris from the swimming beach and boat launch area. At Fish Lake and Doe Point Campgrounds on the Ashland Ranger District, Members assembled 9 new picnic tables, dug 200 feet of trench for the installation of a new electrical line, graveled and edged 1/4 mile of trail with rock retaining walls, and excavated and refurbished 15 failing wastewater sump facilities with new concrete.

Silviculture:

Our objective of enhancing the survival of conifer seedlings has been met through a variety of silvicultural methods. AmeriCorps crews performed over 1230 acres of browse control by installing vexar tubing and applying Big Game Repellent in reforestation sites Forest wide.

Members completed 366 acres of hand fertilization of seedlings on the Prospect Ranger District.

Crews completed 30 acres of mulching to reduce competing vegetation around seedlings on the Butte Falls Ranger District.

720,000 seedlings were transplanted to increase root system development at the J.H. Stone Forest Service Nursery.

Newly planted seedlings were protected from excessive sun by the placement of shade cards on 10 acres on the Prospect Ranger District.

AmeriCorps Members made great progress towards the annual objective of improving the quality and value of the Forests future timber supply by hand pruning 4 rootstock seed orchards. This process will promote growth of propagated material which will become a future seed source for genetically improved, disease resistant tree populations. Members also worked towards their pruning goal by completing an additional 94 acres on the Forest.

(b) **AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:** Briefly restate your objectives and describe progress toward them this quarter.

Rogue River AmeriCorps Members have had numerous opportunities to accomplish personal objectives during the last quarter. The educational component of our program has been a huge success. Over half of the Members are taking college level courses offered by Southern Oregon State College. The instructors travel to Star Gulch and provide credit courses for Members enrolled in the program. This has been a real boost to the morale of the program resulting in several of the Members pre-registering for the Fall term! Another exciting development in our education program is going to take place next month. Oregon State University has invited all of our Members to an extensive seminar provided by Staff level professors in the Natural Resources areas. The university is hoping to recruit several of our Members to enroll in Fall classes. The Members are beginning to see that their AmeriCorps work experience pays off in many ways. They are actually being recruited by a major university! All Rogue River AmeriCorps members also received basic firefighter training in preparation for the upcoming fire season.

AmeriCorps goals outlined in the AmeriCorps Program Handbook have also been accomplished in many ways. The Members had the opportunity to complete a formal program evaluation during the last quarter. The extensive form asked for input on programmatic issues as well as personal growth in the areas that were identified as goals of the AmeriCorps program. The responses that were received were overwhelmingly positive. Most Members felt that they were "getting things done" by feeling a sense of accomplishment through participation in the program. One Member says that she has "learned continually how to work with people to get the job done." Addressing the "developing conflict resolution skills" goal, another Member says that "it has given me the opportunity to learn how to resolve a problem in a professional manner." Many Members felt a strong sense of strengthening communities as they completed projects in Butte Falls and Prospect. Another Member said that "the leadership program helped me gain much needed confidence," and that "the long hours and constant hard work has given me a great work ethic."

(c) **Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:** Briefly restate your objectives and describe progress toward them this quarter.

Our work in the communities surrounding the Rogue River National Forest continues to be our source of pride, recognition and sense of accomplishment. This quarter we completed our work in the community of Butte Falls by laying tile in the Community Hall, building a connecting stairway and painting the Library, constructing a fence around the town tennis courts, and completing the masonry work for the Firehouse addition.

In the Community of Prospect, AmeriCorps crews helped community leaders realize their vision of a native plant Arboretum adjacent to the High School. AmeriCorps crews constructed and graveled a quarter mile of trail, installed an irrigation system, constructed a small bridge, planted over 100 trees, and built rock retaining walls and a split rail fence to enclose the Arboretum. AmeriCorps crews also worked with the Prospect Lions Club to restore the kiosk in the Lions Club Community Park. Crews assisted community volunteers in replacing the roof, installing insulation, sheetrock, and painting the exterior of the building. AmeriCorps Members

also dug a new septic system and laid a concrete foundation for the construction of a bandshell. Both the Lions Club Park and Arboretum are major focal points in the community of Prospect and work on these projects will continue next quarter.

In cooperation with the City of Ashland, Rogue River AmeriCorps Crews completed wildfire fuel reduction on 5 acres of city owned land in the forest/urban interface. AmeriCorps Crews hand piled slash and covered the piles with plastic for later burning. Crews also repositioned large downed logs across slope to prevent erosion. This was the City's first attempt to treat wildfire fuels on over 1000 acres of city owned land. Both the City and neighbors were pleased with the project outcome and are eager to pursue similar treatments on other municipal properties. This project received very favorable coverage on local television broadcasts and two local newspapers.

Rogue River AmeriCorps members constructed a spectacular bridge made of native materials for the Jacksonville Woodsman's Association. This bridge connects popular hiking trails on city owned woodlands and has been praised by residents and tourists for its functional and aesthetic qualities.

AmeriCorps Members planted 3,371 native grass plugs at the Mount Ashland Ski area. This popular winter recreation area is a non-profit community owned facility operated under a Forest Service lease agreement. The City of Ashland depends on the success of Mt. Ashland as a major source of tourism during the winter months. The native grasses will help control erosion on ski runs during the snow free months.

13. Other Accomplishments this Quarter: (Make note of any accomplishments or things gotten done not described above.)

AmeriCorps crews have accomplished several "extra" projects outside of their specific program of work. These projects have provided diversity and excitement to this year's work schedule.

Rogue River AmeriCorps Members volunteered to help the Medford YMCA improve the facilities at their organizational camp on Howard Prairie Reservoir. AmeriCorps Members assisted community volunteers in building new steps, decking and handicap accessible ramps for six sleeping cabins. These improvements greatly helped this non-profit organization improve accessibility and safety at its facility.

Perhaps the most exciting "accomplishment" was the structure of life-sized "trail" on top of a 60 foot trailer! AmeriCorps Members were asked to represent Rogue River National Forest in the 42nd Annual Pear Blossom Festival in southern Oregon. Members jumped at the opportunity and decided to build a structure that would not only represent the forest, but would demonstrate some of projects that they have accomplished on the Forest. The Members constructed an incredible bridge over a forest stream connecting the trail with an authentic cross-cut saw demonstration. Members spent many hours perfecting the forest scene, adding moss covered rocks and native vegetation along the "trail". Addressing the festival's theme of "Making Dreams Come True", Members stressed the AmeriCorps motto with a banner which read "Making Dreams Come True by Getting Things Done!" The hard work paid off when AmeriCorps Members received a First Place trophy in the large float division for the festival parade!

14. Unique successes or great stories : (Include stories that would best communicate to the public how AmeriCorps service gets things done. Particularly helpful are stories that include numerical results and creative solutions.)

There are many successes to report this quarter. The partnership that has been formed with the City of Ashland has proven to be most successful. Ashland is nestled adjacent to the Ashland Watershed which is completely surrounded by National Forest land. The threat of extensive wildfires continue to plague local residents each year. The fuel reduction project was a first attempt to help reduce the threat of massive fire destruction for local residents. Members felt a great sense of community pride as they could actually see the results of their work. Community members were impressed with the accomplishments and grateful to the Members for their help. Positive press stories also gave the Members a boost. The City of Ashland has asked to be a partner in future AmeriCorps programs and will continue to support the efforts of the AmeriCorps Members.

One Forest Service project supervisor provided some interesting information to a crew that was working on a pruning project. He compared the quality of work that AmeriCorps Members were doing to the quality of a contract crew that was working on a similar project. He said that AmeriCorps Members "provided a much better product than the work that he was paying twice the money for." He continued to say that Members were not only efficient, but that the quality was much higher and the work was much neater.

15. 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.) **Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs this Quarter:**

It has been a challenge again this quarter to match program objectives of strengthening communities, national service, and education with a program of work on the Forest, and budget allocations. For example, a large percentage of our funding is in silviculture. Our silvicultural work has been invaluable in developing a work ethic and fostering team work skills. However, projects such as pruning and vexar netting often occur far from the public's view and offer little diversity over long periods of time. We have tried to renew Members' enthusiasm by rotating crews and offering different types of silvicultural work such as transplanting seedlings. An additional challenge has been to juggle objectives that were identified over a year ago with the current Forest program of work. Forest priorities often change within specific areas, therefore flexibility in the AmeriCorps program objectives is important. We have tried to meet this challenge by continuing to work within the allotted funds while accomplishing the needed forest work.

Another challenge faced this quarter has been keeping some Members on track to complete their 1700 hours of service by the end of the program. During the course of the year some Members have taken time out for various reasons, some more compelling than others, leaving them deficit service hours. We have tried to offer make-up time, however this often requires as much coordination for one or two individuals for one day as would be expected for an entire crew for a week.

16. 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; coordination with State Commissions or Corporation state offices; 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.)

We had two events that fostered national identity this quarter. The first was the significant impact we had at the 42nd Annual Pear Blossom Festival in Medford. This is the major event hosted by the City of Medford and all of the local surrounding communities of southern Oregon. The parade was broadcasted live on local network television. Rogue River AmeriCorps entered a 60 foot float in the parade that was rewarded with First Place. Crews carried massive signs with the AmeriCorps logo and a large banner incorporating the parade's theme with the AmeriCorps logo: "Making Dreams Come True by Getting Things Done." We had the opportunity to write the text that announcers read over the live television coverage promoting the AmeriCorps program. We recieved numerous phone calls the following weeks inquiring about the AmeriCorps program.

Another fun event that promoted the AmeriCorps program was a state-wide AmeriCorps Softball Tournament! Members sponsored the event and invited teams from all over the state of Oregon to participate. Members wore shirts bearing the AmeriCorps logo and spent time visiting with other team members about the program. It was not only a great chance to casually spread the word about the program, but it was a GREAT morale booster for the Members involved! It was a terrific weekend activity for all.

17. Significant Program Changes this Quarter: (Report staff turnover in management or supervisory positions, changes in partner/sponsor relationships, changes in board membership, AmeriCorps Member attrition etc.)

No significant changes.

	FULL TIME	PART TIME
No. of Members allotted to your sites	5	
No. of Members enrolled on last day of 3rd Qtr.	4	
No. of Members who served entire 3rd Qtr.	4	
No. of Members who left sites during the 3rd Qtr.	1	
No. of Members who joined sites during 3rd Qtr.	0	
Total Members service hours during the 3rd Qtr.	2684	
Total Members service hours to date	6698	

11. Please provide estimates of the following:

(a) Total **number** of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities this quarter:

Approximately 190 non-AmeriCorps Members volunteered this quarter.

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

Approximately 531 hours of service was provided by non-AmeriCorps volunteers.

12. Summary of Progress this Reporting Quarter Toward Accomplishing Annual Objectives:

(a) Direct Service Objectives:

Objective #1 - Economic Development

In order to realize this goal AmeriCorps began:

1. the implementation of a plan to improve rural fire protection, lower fire insurance rates, reduce losses from fire, and stimulate rural development.
2. completed a fingerprinting project for grades K-3 in Williamsburg County Schools. Over 500 children were fingerprinted.
3. Enhanced the visual quality of the community by completing three beautification projects across Williamsburg County.
4. assisted 4 local and regional government agencies obtain \$60,000 in grant funding.
5. began planning the upgrade of recreation and facilities for the St. Lawrence Community Center.

Objective # 2 - Environmental Education/Presentations

AmeriCorps members are striving to obtain this goal by:

1. completing the restoration of a nature trail at Greeleyville Elementary School.
2. implementing the plan for the creation of the D. P. Cooper Elementary School nature trail.
3. conducting Project Learning Tree presentations to students in Williamsburg County (ages 4-15).

(3) Objective #3 - Leadership Training

No projects were implemented this quarter for attaining this goal.

(b) **AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:** Briefly restate your objectives and describe progress toward them this quarter.

Provide AmeriCorps members with formal and informal training to assist them with achieving AmeriCorps objectives, an awareness of social behavior within their community, and development of leadership skills.

This quarter AmeriCorps members:

participated in a two day workshop at Santee State Park that included topics on time management, knowing your customer, and trust.

attended Basic Ecological Principles Workshop.

attended a law enforcement and ecosystem management review.

participated in Rape Crisis Awareness Training at Cluster Meeting.

attended a Domestic Violence Seminar at Cluster Meeting.

participated in Meeting Management/Consensus Methodologies Facilitation Training.

participated in a grant writing workshop at a Cluster Meeting.

(c) **Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:** Briefly restate your objectives and describe progress toward them this quarter.

1. To seek sustainable economic development opportunities to diversify local economies, resulting in local people obtaining job training and higher paying employment while maintaining the quality of the rural environment.

2. To conduct or arrange 150 environmental education presentations resulting in increased knowledge by citizens as measured by pre and post program interview, with program quality judged by teachers and increased participation in environmental programs in local schools.

3. To conduct 3 leadership development programs, as measured by 50% of the workshop participants beginning or increasing community activities.

This quarter, Kingstree AmeriCorps:

completed pond assessment for potential Dry Fire Hydrant sites in Williamsburg County.

assisted four (4) local and regional government agencies obtain \$60,000 in grant funding.

began improvement plan for the St. Lawrence Community Center.

sponsored three (3) Scout Troops for the Adopt-a-Highway program managed by the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

performed nine (9) environmental education presentations.

completed two (2) beautification projects at local schools and one tree planting at an outreach center.

13. Other Accomplishments this Quarter: None

14. Unique successes or great stories :

DRY FIRE HYDRANT PROJECT

Two members working with the county fire chief, individual fire districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel and other community leaders spent approximately 480 hours since April 1, 1995, identifying potential ponds and lakes where dry fire hydrants could be installed. Selected landowners have been contacted in reference to permitting the county to utilize their ponds as "fill-up" points.

The Williamsburg County portion of the dry fire hydrant project has been completed. The two AmeriCorps members will begin assessing approximately 40 sites in Florence County for the installation of dry hydrants. The tentative start date is July 1995.

These two members were instrumental in assisting Williamsburg and Florence Counties obtain a grant for \$34,250 for the purchase of materials for the construction of 70 dry fire hydrants.

FINGER PRINTING PROJECT

This project, originally scheduled for April, began in May due to school scheduling conflicts.

AmeriCorps coordinated and scheduled the Finger Printing Project at 8 schools in Williamsburg County having grades K-3. The members worked with the school principles, teachers, and other volunteers including the Williamsburg County Sheriff's Department. The Federal Bureau of Investigation provided 6000 finger print cards. The ink pads were contributed by the U. S. Forest Service.

AmeriCorps members completed the Actual finger printing in 10 days (165 member hours (averaging 3 members/day)). Two members spent nearly 200 hundred hours coordinating, obtaining information, travel and meeting with school officials in association with the project this quarter. A total of 500 children were finger printed. AmeriCorps had anticipated 50% of the students from each of 8 schools with K-3 would participate. We believe that the lower than expected turnout was due to an identification card project completed prior to the AmeriCorps Project.

Each child had two sets of prints taken. One set of prints went home with the student and one was placed into the student's school record as a precaution against loss.

BEAUTIFICATION

Two AmeriCorps members assisted by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) solicited funds totaling \$600.00 from two local banks to perform a beautification project at two schools.

One AmeriCorps member planned and drafted the design at Kingstree Academy. The plants were all purchased from a local nursery. 60 dwarf holly, 4 palms and scores of begonias and marigolds were planted. The nursery provided fertilizer, peat moss and a compound for insect control.

At Hemingway High School, 60 students participated in the project supervised by two AmeriCorps members, the NRCS representative and one of the science teachers. At Williamsburg Academy, 20 students assisted the beautification effort supervised by AmeriCorps members, a NRCS representative and a science teacher.

NRCS provided hand tools, a private citizen donated the use of a rotary tiller for both events. Another school employee used his personal vehicle to pick up and deliver the tiller to one location. The press was present at both events. The exact same varieties of plants were used at both schools.

NATURE TRAILS

One AmeriCorps member has completed the restoration of a nature trail at Greeleyville Elementary School. The trail had not been maintained since hurricane Hugo devastated it in 1989. This member has spent 250 hours on this project since April 1, 1995.

The restored trail will be used as an outdoor classroom. There have been 7 members of scout troop 260 with their Scout Master, 15 science students and a science teacher assist AmeriCorps with the project since its inception. The volunteers have completed 50 hours to date.

The volunteers have removed trash, rocks, cleared unwanted plants from a pond and the 1/4 mile looped trail. Brush was removed from the trail area piled and later disposed of environmentally. 10 students assisted moving the brush. The areas around plants identified along the trail's route were cleared. The school, Forest Service and the AmeriCorps member supplied the tools to complete the project.

Both trails are scheduled to be surveyed and have the trail routes professionally mapped using CAD (Computer Aided Design) equipment by Forest Service Personnel in July 1995. These maps will aid principles and teachers by allowing them to document existing points of interest and add others as they continue to develop and refine the nature areas.

St. ANN'S OUTREACH CENTER

All Kingstree AmeriCorps members participated in the Earth Day Awareness Event held in April. 8 Black Tueplo trees were planted over the course of three days. Environmental education presentations were delivered each day. 40 students, representing elementary, middle and high school who attend the center were present.

Two Project Learning Tree presentations were prepared and given by one member during May. The two presentations covered nutrition and environmental education. 40 students attended these two presentations.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

One AmeriCorps member sponsored three scout troops (50 scouts) for the Adopt-a-Highway Program. Each troop is assigned 3 miles of highway within their community. The program is administered by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). Bags and trash pick-up is done by the State. SCDOT will erect a sign that shows each troop's number. This project provides the participants with a sense of pride and ownership in their community as well as responsibility for the environment in their neighborhood.

15. Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter:

Recurring obstacles to the Kingstree program continue to be media coverage and a lack of follow-thru by persons having expressed an interest in participating or implementing a project.

Media coverage has ranged from scant to non-existent. This may be in part due to the fact that the county's newspapers are weeklies. However, at the writing of this report, a renewed interest appears to be growing about AmeriCorps in the Kingstree area media. I have scheduled some tentative interviews and meetings.

Often-times a group or entity will request assistance or volunteer services and have to be tracked down or never heard from again. The Kingstree AmeriCorps Members aggressively pursue these potentials, meeting with and encouraging them to continue with their plans or ideas.

16. National Identity Activities this Quarter:

In April, AmeriCorps Members participated in a service project in Santee, South Carolina. The Kingstree members along with other AmeriCorps Members participated in three different service projects. The Kingstree AmeriCorps Members teamed with another group of AmeriCorps Members and performed outdoor maintenance at a daycare center.

The U S Forest Service held a conference in Atlanta, GA, June 26-28 for AmeriCorps Sites under it's direction. All Forest Service AmeriCorps members (including Kingstree), participated in a service project to paint a building used by other AmeriCorps Members working with a non-profit group aiding the homeless in Atlanta. The event was covered by a local television station.

17. Significant Program Changes this Quarter:

One AmeriCorps Member resigned this quarter. There were no other changes.

DELTON ALDERMAN #12

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I built and stressed a portable hardwood logging bridge. In conjunction with this project I arranged and assisted in a Timber Bridge Demonstration. The demonstration invited and was attended by USDA Forest Service engineers, Virginia Department of Forestry personnel, loggers, foresters, and area lumbermen.

I have also designed and will build a residential/farm bridge for a farm tour, a pedestrian bridge, and logging bridges for a southwestern and southside Virginia demonstrations.

Participated in our cluster project Field Day Demonstration for the Tree Identification Lab and assisted in teacher training for the project.

I gave a presentation on timber bridges at the USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Conference in Atlanta. During this conference I learned what other members worked on during the past year.

Successfully completed an effective presentation course in Richmond, Virginia.

COMMUNITY BUILDING/STRENGTHING OBJECTIVES

The timber bridge and field day demonstrations allowed participants to realize the work we are accomplishing as AmeriCorps members. The Tree Identification books and trail plaques will enable faculty to teach their students ecology, tree id, and the importance of trees. The bridge demonstration provided new technologies for environmentally safe stream crossings and may initiate a local company to start producing bridges, which will create jobs.

JAMES PRATT FOREST PRODUCTS MARKETING SPECIALIST

AmeriCorp*USA

Quarterly Report, Third Quarter

12. summary of progress this reporting quarter toward accomplishing annual objectives:

(a) Direct Service Objectives:

I have made substantial progress on my main project, the creation of a Specialty Forest Products Directory intended to "create new markets for forest products, as well as expand the use of established ones." To date, I have collected a total of ninety-four entries, a number well within reach of my overall goal of one-hundred, which I should easily be able to attain in the time remaining. By the time this report is received, I will have begun to design the directory's final format and printed out sample copies.

In addition, I have continued to distribute questionnaires (22 were mailed out at the date of this writing) and search for new sources of information. For example, in response to a letter I sent out to Virginia Department of Forestry employees in Regions 5 and 6 (a total of sixteen letters were mailed out) requesting information on the wood industry in their area, Regional Forester Frank Burchinal supplied me with several leads I have already acted upon.

All the information I have obtained for the directory had been stored in a database that documents all necessary information (name, address, contact, products produced, etc.). This was done for the purpose of updating the directory on future occasions, as expected (and unexpected) changes in the wood products industry take place. Therefore, the creation of an updated directory shall simply involve printing out the necessary information and arranging it in a "book-like" form.

The Riverwalk Tree Identification project implemented by my AmeriCorps cluster group has been completed. All forty posts and plaques are in place. 250 accompanying workbooks have been delivered to the teachers of Smyth county to aid them in their use of the trail as an outdoor laboratory. Three training sessions were held to instruct the teachers on how best to use the workbooks and trail for this purpose. A Field Day was held to celebrate the official "opening" of the trail and several people, including representatives of the local government (including the mayor of Marion) were in attendance.

One of the grants I wrote and submitted during the last quarter has been approved. This \$25,2000 AmeriCorps grant was submitted to the US Forest Service and seeks to establish a feasibility study of a timber bridge industry in Southwest Virginia. The first grant, which was for \$18,000 and was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, involves a study of the types of and potential uses for wood-waste in Southwest Virginia. I am still waiting to hear whether it has been accepted or not.

(b) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

I attended a forest products marketing workshop sponsored by Virginia Tech's Center for Forest Products Marketing on April 3-5. Topics covered included an overview of the forest products industry from a technical standpoint, possible future trends, and the art of salesmanship. At the end of the seminar participants were divided into groups and asked to "create" their own corporations. Afterward, each group was required to a presentation on their corporation, outlining their strengths, weaknesses, and reasons behind the choices (product produced, type of transportation, etc.).

I participated in a three-day workshop on "How to Develop an Effective Presentation" in Richmond, Va. The workshop detailed a systematic method for creating several types of speeches, including the "Basic Speech," "Humorous Speech," and "Controversial Speech," as well as how to introduce speakers and act as a master of ceremonies. The workshop culminated with a required presentation on a subject of the speaker's choice.

I attended an AmeriCorps conference in Atlanta, GA on June 26-28. I gave a presentation on my Specialty Forest Products Directory, and also witnessed several presentations given by other AmeriCorps members on their own activities. The conference included a mini-seminar on ways to use the press to your advantage.

(c) Co Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

I am ready to begin the last phase of my main project, the Specialty Forest Products Directory. All that remains is the designing and execution of the final format. This shall be kept as simple as possible to ensure future updates may be made with little difficulty. This directory will develop markets by advertising local products and services, buyers for regionally produced lumber, and, by the same token, potential sources of wood. Once the Specialty Forest Products Directory is completed, it will strengthen the community economically, as well as maximize the utilization of a natural resource, but these benefits will not be felt

Community the project is completed and the directory had been circulated.

The Riverwalk Trail, which was completed in May, will provide a new resource for Smyth County teachers, promote a pre-existing feature of Marion that many of its residents didn't even know existed, and otherwise enhance the community. It will act as an outdoor laboratory for the students of Smyth County, a potential tourist attraction, and a scenic recreational spot to be enjoyed by all. A Field Day ceremony held to commemorate the Trail's official opening generated a significant amount of publicity, ensuring that the public is aware of its existence.

13. Other Accomplishments this Quarter:

I participated in the Field Day opening ceremonies of the Marion Riverwalk Trail in its capacity as an Outdoor Tree Identification Laboratory. A large crowd was in attendance, including members of the press and several representatives of the local government (the mayor of Marion was one of the speakers for the event).

On June twenty-fifth through twenty-eighth I attended an AmeriCorps conference in Atlanta, Georgia. On the first day of the conference I did a presentation on my major project, the Specialty Forest Products Directory. On the last day all AmeriCorps personnel and supervisors participated in a one-day project that involved painting a large portion of a homeless shelter. Again, the press was in attendance, albeit briefly.

I helped assemble a New River-Highlands RC&D display for the Appalachian Hardwood Expo '95 (June 23-24) that included information on AmeriCorps projects. I spent half a day manning the display to answer any questions Expo visitors might have had.

14. Unique successes or great stories:

15. Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter:

A few months after the Riverwalk Trail was completed, roughly half the tree identification posts were damaged by as yet unknown vandals. The Plexiglass covers were smashed and the laminated information sheets were cut or torn into pieces. This was not really a setback since the project is already finished, but disheartening nonetheless.

16. National Identity Activities this Quarter:

My participation in the '95 Appalachian Hardwood Expo promoted AmeriCorps ideals, in that information on the

results of several projects were incorporated into the New River-Highlands RC&D display, showing that our cluster group is "Getting Things Done."

The community project I worked on while attending the AmeriCorps conference in Atlanta, the painting of a homeless shelter, served to beautify a neighborhood landmark as well as publicize AmeriCorps' contributions to the community. Incidentally, the project received coverage from a local t.v. station.

17. significant Program Changes this Quarter:

None.

AMERICORPS WAVERLY FIELD OFFICE QUARTER REPORT

TIME PERIOD: December 1, 1994 - March 31, 1995

DUE DATE: April 10, 1995

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

♦ 2

2. NUMBER OF MEMBERS ENROLLED AT THE END OF THE CURRENT QUARTER

♦ 2

3. NUMBER OF MEMBERS TERMINATED FROM THE PROGRAM

♦ 0

4. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE PERFORMED

♦ 1885.5

5. TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS IN TRAINING

♦ 124

6. PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

- ♦ Presented environmental programs to 670 local elementary and middle school students
- ♦ Established a 1.2 acre native grass study site
- ♦ Planted 5 dogwood trees for community beautification
- ♦ Conducted 1 Water Safety and Quality Workshop which benefited 17 members of the community
- ♦ Provided white pine trees to approximately 812 residents of Humphreys County for community beautification and erosion control
 - 182 - local students
 - 30 - Senior Citizens
 - 600 - area residents
- ♦ Conducted an Arbor Day workshop for 15 members of the Senior Citizen's Center in Waverly

- ◆ Revitalized 2,375 feet of nature trails at Blue Creek Nature Center
- ◆ Established first ever Christmas tree recycling project in Humphreys County resulting in 713 pounds of wood waste averted from the local landfill
- ◆ Placed 9 bluebird houses throughout community use property
- ◆ Planted 25 Bald Cypress trees to control erosion on local streambanks
- ◆ Utilized Ruby Raindrop character to educate 150 local students about water quality and conservation
- ◆ Developed 7 lesson plans for use at Blue Creek Nature Center by local teachers
- ◆ Developed publicity brochure for Blue Creek Nature Center
- ◆ Published 2 newsletters detailing the activities of AmeriCorps and Blue Creek Nature Center
- ◆ Assisted Lawrence County Soil Conservation District in development of new nature center
- ◆ Revitalized 200 feet of critically eroding streambank on Bear Creek
- ◆ Created 2 aquatic habitat areas on Bear Creek
- ◆ Attended County Recycling Committee meeting to discuss plans of initiating recycling projects at 5 county schools for the 1995-1996 school year

7. PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Continuing efforts have been made toward the improvement of Blue Creek Nature Center. Seven lesson plans have been developed for teachers to use with classes at the nature center. The lesson plans involve activities that are to be performed in an outdoor setting such as the nature center.
- ◆ AmeriCorps members have worked to improve materials in the nature exhibit room that is used by visitors to the nature center. Some examples are:
 - Animal tracks and scats have been identified and mounted on boards
 - Five animal pelts purchased for student studies
 - Four mounted animals donated by local veterinarian
 - Touch feel boxes
 - Several bird nests for display
 - Several environmental lesson guide books, resource books, and videos for use by community
- ◆ Approximately 200 feet of critically eroding streambank was stabilized due to the help of AmeriCorps workers. Workers used riprap and willow stakes to stabilize eroding banks. A log weir or dam was placed in the stream to create a plunge pool. The dam aids in providing necessary fish habitat. Without the stabilization of this area of stream, sediment would continue to collect downstream and eroding banks would choke out healthy populations of aquatic organisms. Likewise, the streambank project created two excellent areas for aquatic study sessions with students during the summer.
- ◆ Classroom visits to local schools were a great success. A total of 670 students in 28 classes were provided with environmental education by AmeriCorps members. Each teacher was given the opportunity to choose a topic for his or her classroom visit. The topics covered included: forestry, waste management, water quality and conservation, soils, and wildlife. Each class was able to participate in a hands on experiment or activity after a brief introduction to the topic. (Please see teacher evaluations and letters attached.)
- ◆ AmeriCorps members were very active during Tennessee's celebration of Arbor Day. Approximately 812 residents of Humphreys County were provided with white pine trees to be used for beautification or erosion control in their individual communities. Likewise, members planted five dogwood trees at various sites in the community for beautification purposes. An Arbor Day workshop was presented to the Waverly Senior Citizen's Center. The senior's were entertained by a visit from Ruby Raindrop and Sammy Soil, the importance of trees were discussed, and each senior was presented with a white pine tree.
- ◆ Publicity for Blue Creek Nature Center and AmeriCorps has increased this quarter. AmeriCorps has been highlighted in the county newspaper, as well as discussed on a local radio station. Additionally, AmeriCorps has gained great attention from the classroom visits members have participated in. Humphreys County knows that AmeriCorps is "Getting Things Done."

8. PROJECTED OUTCOMES FOR NEXT QUARTER

- ◆ Conduct one environmental field day for 1,000 county students
- ◆ Conduct birding workshop for area bird enthusiasts
- ◆ Conduct Aquatic Wild workshop for state soil conservation district secretaries and local teachers
- ◆ Construct an overlook on nature trails
- ◆ Work with 4-H youth on wildlife plots
- ◆ Construct wildlife observation stand
- ◆ Develop plans for Blue Creek overlook
- ◆ Develop walking trail for Bear Creek
- ◆ Erect trail signs
- ◆ Host Five Rivers RC&D Envirothon
- ◆ Identify understory plants on nature trails
- ◆ Host National Service Day project
- ◆ Develop plans for a nature center day involving local civic organizations

9. PRIMARY CHALLENGES

There have been no challenges encountered that program members have not been able to overcome. The primary challenge has been finding enough time to cover the amount of requests from teachers and principals to present environmental programs to classrooms.

10. PRIMARY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

- ◆ Outdoor education training would be beneficial to the members at this program site. Training provided by state park naturalists would help to increase the assistance AmeriCorps naturalists can offer Blue Creek Nature Center visitors.
- ◆ Training in public speaking would also be helpful to members. Many members are asked to speak to local organizations regarding AmeriCorps. Training in this area would help members learn to speak effectively.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NEWS ARTICLES, EVALUATIONS, AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Blue Creek Nature has two Naturalists on staff for visitor assistance. Guided tours may be scheduled for school groups, civic organizations, or special interest groups. A variety of nature activities can be organized to accompany a group visit.

The staff of Blue Creek Nature Center encourages visitors to do so during all seasons of the year, thereby seeing the variety of plants, birds, and other wildlife who make the center their home throughout the year.



If you are interested in learning more about Blue Creek Nature Center or would like to schedule a visit, please contact us at:

115 West Blue Creek Road
Waverly, Tennessee 37185
Phone: (615) 296-3442

Hours: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Monday-Friday
Weekends by request

Our staff would like to thank the following companies and organizations for all their help in making Blue Creek Nature Center a great success!

Boys Scouts of America
Girl Scouts of America
E. I. DuPont
Five Rivers RC&D
Humphreys County Board of Education
Humphreys County Chamber of
Commerce
Humphreys County Commission
Humphreys County Highway
Department
Natural Resources Conservation
Service
Seven Hawks Wilderness Program
Tennessee Department of Education
Tennessee Division of Forestry
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

All programs and services of the Humphreys County Soil Conservation District are offered and are available on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap.

Blue Creek Nature Center



Located on Highway 13
Two miles South of Waverly
Humphreys County Agriculture Center

What is Blue Creek Nature Center?

Blue Creek Nature Center is a unique combination of local, state, and Federal Governments working together with the community. The function of the facility is to provide agriculture services

to landowners, promote the conservation and wise use of our natural resources, and provide environmental recreation and education through a variety of programs and opportunities.



Blue Creek Nature Center is a 42 acre facility located two miles south of Waverly on Blue Creek Road. The nature center is owned and operated by the Humphreys County Soil Conservation District. Located on the grounds are walking and jogging areas, hiking trails, and an area available for ATV riding (organized rides only) and bicycling.

Blue Creek Nature Center belongs to you. Take only memories, leave only footprints....

Features of Blue Creek Nature Center

Nature Trails:

Blue Creek Nature Center offers approximately two miles of hiking trails that feature many wooded hills and hollows which characterize much of Humphreys County. There are three different trails routes to choose from depending on time length and difficulty. Additionally, each trail route has a variety of numbered stops which correspond with a printed trail guide. Likewise, the trail features numerous labelled trees and understory plants for educational purposes.

Streams:

Blue Creek Nature Center property is bordered on two sides by Blue Creek and Bear Branch. These two streams provide excellent opportunity for guided aquatic studies.

Wildlife:

Blue Creek Nature Center is the home to a variety of species of wildlife. Located at the center are



Features (cont'd)

numerous bird houses, bat boxes, bee hives, a deer salt lick, a deer stand for wildlife observation, and many wildlife food plots.

Open Air Pavilion:

A popular feature at Blue Creek Nature Center is the open air pavilion. Situated on the hilltop in which all nature trails begin and end, the pavilion makes an excellent area for an afternoon picnic or group project. The pavilion overlooks BULL FROG POND and the PINE TREE PLANTATION. Bull Frog Pond is stocked with a variety of fish that are always willing to accept snacks of fish food from center visitors.



Accessibility for persons with physical disabilities:

Available at Blue Creek Nature Center are paved nature trails that offer persons with physical disabilities the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities.



Ruby Raindrop

Ruby Raindrop Comes to County

Waverly will never be the same again. Ruby Raindrop has come to town and she is making waves for water conserva-

tion.

Ruby Raindrop is the newest addition to the Blue Creek Nature Center staff.

Ruby, portrayed by AmeriCorps Naturalist Elizabeth Hooper, is a giant raindrop shaped character that teaches the public about water quality and conservation.

The staff of the Nature Center worked diligently to prepare the new "Ruby Mobile" for the Waverly Christmas Parade Nov. 27.

Ruby Raindrop rode on the back of the freshly painted red golf cart which was driven by AmeriCorps Naturalist Mike Milholland. Also accompanying Ruby was District Secretary Cheryl Patterson who passed out candy with the mes-

sage "Help Keep Water Clean" attached to each piece.

Ruby Raindrop, sponsored by the Humphreys County Soil Conservation District, will be making many public appearances throughout the county during 1995 to educate the public on water conservation issues.

The primary focus of Ruby Raindrop will be to educate the youth of Humphreys County. Many area students along the parade route recognized Ruby Raindrop from previous class visits to the Blue Creek Nature Center.

Overall, the Waverly Christmas parade was a good start for "Ruby Raindrop Tour" of Humphreys County.

Be sure to look for her in the near future.

THE NEWS DEMOCRAT, FRIDAY, DEC. 9, 1994

Waverly T.O.

THE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

Humphreys County's Own Newspaper

1 Section - 16 Pages - 50 Cents

Waverly, Tennessee 37185, Friday, December 16, 1994

A Kennedy Newspaper Co., Inc. Newspaper

Waverly T.O.

Recycle Discarded Christmas Trees

On Dec. 26, will you know what to do with your discarded Christmas tree?

Try something new this year. Eighteen percent of landfills in the United States are occupied by yard and woodwaste. Instead of taking your tree to the dumpster or placing it on the curb for pickup—recycle it!

The AmeriCorps members of the Humphreys County Soil Conservation District are sponsoring a Christmas Tree Recycling Program.

The discarded trees are chipped to produce mulch for community beautification. Likewise, the trees provide animal shelters in wooded areas, aquatic habitats in reservoirs and help to control soil erosion.

The process, at no charge to the public, is simple. Trees should be removed of tree stands, tree bags, lights and ornaments, then brought to the collection site at Wal-Mart parking lot in Waverly, or the Humphreys County Agriculture Center located on Highway 13 South behind the Farmer's Co-Op.

Collection of trees will be from Dec. 27-Jan. 6. Later in January the trees will be chipped at the Agriculture Center. Provided there are enough trees, mulch will be available to the public at no charge. For further information contact Elizabeth Hooper at 296-3442.

Water Safety, Quality Workshop March 21

Have you had enough of cold weather, runny noses and trips to the doctor?

Are you instead ready for warm weather, suntans and trips to the lake?

Despite the fun that is associated with water activities, the trips to the lake require water safety knowledge.

About six people were involved in fatal water accidents last year in Tennessee. These fatalities may have been prevented with a little water safety training.

The Humphreys Soil Conservation District is offering a Water Quality and Safety Workshop Tuesday, March 21, 7 p.m., at the Agriculture Center at the fairgrounds.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agents Robert Dougherty and Ken Smith will be the guest speakers. Dougherty and Smith will present a program covering the basics of boating and water safety, and the new regulations that take effect this year.

Likewise, boats and a variety of water safety equipment will be displayed. TWRA will also be offering courtesy checks of any boat brought to the workshop. Participants that pass the check will receive a sticker to
See WATER on Page 16

Continued from Page 1

be displayed on the boat that denotes it as safety checked.

Another important aspect of the workshop is the portion dealing with water quality. Once boating season begins, the litter on the local lakes and rivers increases.

AmeriCorps members Elizabeth Hooper and Mike Holland will be discussing the effects of such litter and pollution on the aquatic wildlife and overall water quality of the rivers and lakes.

Kick off your boating season right this year! Come to the Water Quality and Safety Workshop. Knowing what to do in an emergency situation on the water could save a life. Please take time to prepare you and your family.

Community Events

Revival

There will be a revival at the Hurricane Chapel Free Will Baptist Church April 2-7, 6 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. other days. The evangelist will be Gary Loritt.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will be held March 31, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at all three of the county's elementary schools. Parents are asked to bring children's birth certificates, social security cards and shot records. They are asked to register children even without the records.

Church Singing

There will be a singing at the Open Bible Assembly Church in McEwen March 25, 7 p.m. featuring the Labourers Quartet and the Cornerstones.

Museum Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Humphreys County Museum Committee March 30, 7 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office in Waverly.

TVA Appreciation Day

Retired annual employees of the Cumberland Power Plant are invited to an appreciation day April 19. Lunch is at 11 a.m. Respond to Cumberland Power Plant, P.O. Box 2000, Cumberland City, TN 37050, Attn. Mike Tomes.

Ham & Bean Luncheon

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 109 N. Church Street, Waverly, will have a ham and bean luncheon March 31, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

WES PTA Meeting

The Waverly Elementary School PTA will meet March 28, 7 p.m. in the physical education room. The Youth Drug Alliance Group and the first graders will perform. Babysitting will be provided.

Water Workshop

A water quality and safety workshop will be held at the Humphreys County Agriculture Center on the fairgrounds March 28, 6:30 p.m. TWRA agents will give safety checks to boats brought to the workshop.

Editor's note: Announcements in the Community Events are run without charge for non-profit organizations. No prices can be given and items can only run once.

Positive notes
from local
teachers



A Note From.....

3/23/95

Crystel Collier

Dear Elizabeth and Mike,
Thanks for presenting
your informative program
on the water cycle to my
class last week. You did
an excellent job presenting
the information on a level
that the children could
understand.

Sincerely yours,
Crystel S. Collier

**AMERICORPS
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
TEACHER SURVEY**

NAME: Dale Flexer

GRADE: 3

SCHOOL: Waverly Elem. School

OF STUDENTS: 22

1. What was the theme of your classroom visit?

Recycling

2. What was the overall reaction of your class to the environmental education program? They were very interested

+ thoroughly enjoyed it.

3. Do you feel that the time spent with your class was worthwhile to their overall education? yes - it was just long

enough to keep them interested + not too long to be boring - (It is very hard to get Science in everyday

4. On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate the effectiveness of your environmental education program in regards to student learning. 10 - This was so well prepared

+ presented on their level that it made it very worthwhile

5. Please list any suggestions you have of improving the Soil Conservation Environmental Education Program.

I would love for you to come share other areas of conservation with us esp. the water cycle - habitats etc.

They listen so much better when an "outside person(s)" comes + presents topics.

Thanks so much! Dale Flexer

**AMERICORPS
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
TEACHER SURVEY**

NAME:

Tracy Mulliken

GRADE:

3rd

SCHOOL:

Waverly Elementary

OF STUDENTS:

21

1. What was the theme of your classroom visit?

recycling

2. What was the overall reaction of your class to the environmental education program?

They were excited and ready to do more at home and at school to recycle.

3. Do you feel that the time spent with your class was worthwhile to their overall education?

Yes! We have now started recycling our paper. We have very little trash!!

4. On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate the effectiveness of your environmental education program in regards to student learning.

10

5. Please list any suggestions you have of improving the Soil Conservation Environmental Education Program.

They are doing a great job in my opinion.

**AMERICORPS
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
TEACHER SURVEY**

NAME: Barbara Rehrig

GRADE: 6th

SCHOOL: LAKEview

OF STUDENTS: 50 (2 Science classes)

1. What was the theme of your classroom visit?

Enviroscape - pollution, prevention of water cycle in relation to other parts of our environment

2. What was the overall reaction of your class to the environmental education program?

Totally involved. Listened, discussed, participated & enjoyed.

3. Do you feel that the time spent with your class was worthwhile to their overall education?

Excellent program, well presented. This re-enforced what was already taught.

4. On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate the effectiveness of your environmental education program in regards to student learning.

9 or 10

5. Please list any suggestions you have of improving the Soil Conservation Environmental Education Program.

The video was below sixth grade level, but was still good. (This was the reason noted for lower scale)

**AMERICORPS
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
TEACHER SURVEY**

NAME: Barbara Rehrig

GRADE: 6th

SCHOOL: LAKEview

OF STUDENTS: 50 (2 Science classes)

1. What was the theme of your classroom visit?

Enviroscape - pollution, prevention of water cycle in relation to other parts of our environment

2. What was the overall reaction of your class to the environmental education program?

Totally involved. Listened, discussed, participated & enjoyed.

3. Do you feel that the time spent with your class was worthwhile to their overall education?

Excellent program, well presented. This re-enforced what was already taught.

4. On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate the effectiveness of your environmental education program in regards to student learning.

9 or 10

5. Please list any suggestions you have of improving the Soil Conservation Environmental Education Program.

The video was below sixth grade level, but was still good. (This was the reason noted for lower scale)

Trail Talk

February 1995

News from Humphreys Soil Conservation District

Volume 1 Issue 1

"Trail Talk" Is Born

February marks the introduction of "Trail Talk," a publication from the Humphreys Soil Conservation District that incorporates updates of activities at the Blue Creek Nature Center, as well as Conservation District news. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep the public aware of services provided to them by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Blue Creek Nature Center. Likewise, the publication will feature a variety of facts and tips relating to the environment and soil conservation.



*We have not inherited the
earth from our fathers.
we are borrowing it from
our children.*

AmeriCorps Shows Its Presence In Humphreys County

Humphreys Soil Conservation District was very fortunate to have received grants to fund two AmeriCorps members to staff Blue Creek Nature center as Naturalists. As part of the AmeriCorps National Service Program initiated by President Clinton, people all over the nation are providing service to their country in exchange for educational grants. Participants range from high school drop outs who want to receive their GED, to college graduates who want to continue their education.

AmeriCorps members in this county are working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as part of the Rural Development Team.

What is Blue Creek Nature Center?

The Humphreys Soil Conservation District has worked for the past three years to develop a nature area which features an environmental education center. Through grants and many hours of volunteer help, the 42 acre facility is becoming a viable asset to the Conservation District, county schools, local organizations, and individuals who have already taken advantage of the facilities.

Blue Creek Nature Center offers many opportunities to experience nature. Located on the grounds are walking and jogging areas, hiking trails, and areas available for bicycling and organized ATV rides. A nature exhibit room is being developed in the Administrative Building that will feature many examples of bird nests, animal furs and skulls, and a library of materials available for use by county teachers and organizational groups.

Come visit us at the Ag Center and see what we have to offer you!

inside...

Blue Creek Nature Center Updates
Conservation District News
Upcoming Events and Articles

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County Schools Have Special Visitors

AmeriCorps Naturalists Elizabeth Hooper and Mike Milholland have been busy over the past few weeks of January and February visiting Elementary and Junior High schools of Humphreys County. The focus of the visits has been environmental education.

As part of the AmeriCorps National Service Project, many AmeriCorps members across the nation are offering educational programs to schools. Hooper and Milholland have visited approximately 300 students since January, covering topics such as soil and water conservation, water quality, wildlife, forestry, and waste management.

Students have been involved in many hands-on activities. For example, the "Enviroshopping" activity allows students to use modelling clay to make replicas of plastic recyclables. The activity teaches the students about the benefits of recycling, as opposed to sending trash to the landfill.

Evaluation sheets reveal a very positive response from the teachers and an even more enthusiastic response from the students. Many classes have already requested a second visit. Education is the key to improving the future of these students and they are very excited to learn about protecting their environment!

Earth Tip!

Americans produce 154 million tons of garbage every year. That's enough to fill the New Orleans Superdome from top to bottom, twice a day. 50% of this trash is recyclable!

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE!**

Christmas Tree Recycling A Success!

The AmeriCorps members at the Waverly Field Office initiated the first annual Christmas tree recycling project of Humphreys County. Overall, the first year was a great success with approximately 35 trees being collected before travelling to the county landfill.

Some of the trees are being used by local farmers as erosion control. The remainder of the trees will be mulched for use on the trails of the Blue Creek Nature Center. Plans are already underway to improve the project for next year. Thanks to all who contributed trees! Hopefully, the amount of trees will increase with each year the program is offered.



Upcoming Environmental Education Workshops

Blue Creek Nature Center will be offering educational workshops throughout the next few months. The workshops will cover a variety of topics primarily focusing on caring for the environment.

The first workshop is scheduled for March 28th. The topic will be Water Safety.

Nature Center In Need of Wildlife Exhibits

The nature exhibit room at Blue Creek Nature Center is in need of wildlife exhibits. Staff members Hooper and Milholland are in the process of improving the exhibit room before spring tours begin in March.

The exhibit room, located in the Administrative Building, gives visitors of the nature center an opportunity to see wildlife up close. Some of the items wanted are animal furs, mounted animals of the Tennessee area (i.e., raccoons, foxes, owls, ducks, etc.), bird nests, animal skulls, snake skins, etc. If you have any items that you think would benefit the center, or know of anyone who does, please contact Elizabeth or Mike at 296-3442 or bring it by the office.

A special thanks to Mark Browning, Jesse Davidson, Lester Lomax, and John McElhiney of the TN Div. of Forestry for cutting dead trees along the trails of the nature center!

SCS Gets New Name

Many of you have heard a new greeting when calling our office over the past few months. However, you may have realized from the familiar voice greeting you that you had not reached the wrong office.

October 20, 1994 was the beginning of a major reorganization process of the United States Department of Agriculture. Established during the reorganization was the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a new federal agency which combines most of the authorities of the former Soil Conservation Service with five natural resource conservation cost-share programs previously administered by other USDA agencies.

The recent name change from the Soil Conservation Service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service better reflects the services offered by this agency. NRCS is now the key federal agency to offer technical help on private lands to improve water, wildlife habitats, forest lands, grasslands, and other resources related to the land.

Local Counties to Lose Agriculture Offices

With the reorganization of the USDA, 23 counties across the state of Tennessee are scheduled to lose their USDA offices. Local counties scheduled to be closed include:

Benton County
Davidson County
Decatur County
Houston County
Lewis County
Perry County
Wayne County

There is still money available for cost-share assistance on erosion control and water quality projects.

Remember!

Pasture seeding dates start
February 20th

Conservation Tip!

Every year in the U.S. we lose 7 billion tons of topsoil. Conservation practices could reduce this figure by 50% or more!

Locals Honored At Recent Banquet

Humphreys Soil Conservation District recently recognized two individuals for their outstanding efforts toward conservation. Sam Reynolds, from the Plant community, was recognized as the 1994 Outstanding Conservation Farmer. Mr. Reynolds was selected for his achievements in conservation tillage practices, overall farming techniques, and conservation to others.

approximately 1200 Humphreys and Benton

Also honored at was Mrs. Dottie Loose, for her unending Humphreys SCD.

contributions, Mrs. Loose time to Soil and Water Stewardship Week. This week involves distributing educational materials to each school and a majority of the churches in the county.

Thank you Mr. Reynolds and Mrs. Loose for your support of conservation programs in Humphreys County!



promotion of soil Mr. Reynolds farms acres of row crops in Counties.

the annual banquet Mrs. Loose was cited volunteer efforts to Among a long list of devotes a great deal of

SCD Office Personnel

District Conservationist

Odell Poyner

Office Manager

Cheryl Patterson

AmeriCorps Naturalists

Elizabeth Hooper

Mike Milholland

Soil Scientist

Joe Adams

Board of Supervisors

David Hatcher, Chairperson

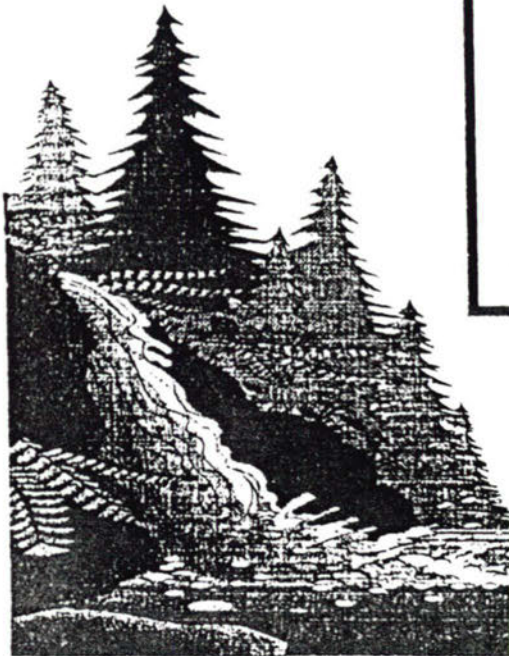
Margaret Forrester

Ray May

Eric Mayberry

Sam Reynolds

Trail Talk is made possible through a grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Non-Point Source Funds.



Next Issue

- ♦ *Five Rivers RC&D Envirothon Update*
- ♦ *Arbor Day Special*
- ♦ *Tips for Planting Trees*

Upcoming Events

- ♦ *Office Closed Feb. 20th, President's Day*
- ♦ *Board Meeting March 9th, 8:30 AM*
- ♦ *Dogwood Tree Delivery - First Week of March*

All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service are offered and are available on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap.



Trail Talk

Humphreys Soil Conservation District
115 West Blue Creek Road
Waverly, Tennessee 37185

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Agriculture Center Information
Blue Creek Nature Center Update
Conservation District News
Upcoming Events and Articles

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Trail Talk

April 1995

News from Humphreys

Soil Conservation District

Volume 1 Issue 2

Ag Center to Host "Celebrate the Earth"

April is a very important month for organizations dealing with the environment and its conservation. A variety of celebrations such as Earth Day are taking place all around the nation. The Humphreys Soil Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are working together to create public awareness for the environment.

On April 20-21, Humphreys Soil Conservation District is hosting "Celebrate the Earth," an environmental field day at the Agriculture Center in Waverly. The event is being held in conjunction with "A Celebration of the Land," a month long observance by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The majority of the visitors will be approximately 1000 third through sixth graders from the Humphreys County school system. However, the event will be open to the public from 2:30 - 5:00 PM on Thursday.

A variety of local, state, and federal agencies will be present with activities and "hands-on" displays. Also, the hiking trails and nature exhibit room of the Blue Creek Nature Center, located at the Ag Center, will be open to the public. Special guests Ruby Raindrop and Sammy Soil will be on hand to greet visitors at the nature center.

Come out to Blue Creek Nature Center and begin your celebration of the earth! If you would like to be a volunteer to help with students during this event, please call the Nature Center at 296-3442.

AmeriCorps Alive and Strong in Humphreys County

If you have been paying attention to national news lately, you probably have noticed the attention the AmeriCorps National Service project has been receiving. Recently, Joel Berg, a representative from Washington D.C., was at Blue Creek Nature to observe the progress that AmeriCorps Naturalists Hooper and Milholland have been making in Humphreys County.

While visiting the area, Berg reviewed the work Hooper and Milholland have been doing at the nature center and also observed a classroom visit the naturalists had at Waverly Elementary School.

Berg relayed the message from Washington that the AmeriCorps program is accomplishing great things throughout the country. Likewise, Berg contributed that AmeriCorps is a program that will not disappear without a fight.

Envirothon to be Held at Nature Center

Blue Creek Nature Center is the site for the Five Rivers RC&D Envirothon on April 5, 1995. Envirothon is a hands-on competition that is geared toward teaching high school students about natural resources and current environmental issues. Students are tested on their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and one current environmental issue that changes from year to year. This year the environmental topic is concerning groundwater.

Envirothon originated in Pennsylvania in 1979. Tennessee first became involved with the project in 1993 when the Clinch-Powell RC&D Council held the first regional competition. In 1995, Tennessee's seven RC&D councils will each hold area competitions, as well as a state competition for the regional winners.

Envirothon is a hands-on competition that is geared toward teaching high school students about natural resources and current environmental issues.

inside...

*"Celebrate the Earth"
during April*

How Did You Celebrate Arbor Day?

How did you celebrate Arbor Day this year? Hopefully you were able to find a local forester giving away trees to plant.

Arbor day was first celebrated on April 10, 1872 by its founder, J. Sterling Morton. In 1885 the date was moved to April 22 which was later selected to be the first Earth Day. Today, by proclamation, Arbor Day is celebrated nationally on the last Friday in April. However, many states have chosen their own day to observe Arbor Day. Tennessee always celebrates this event on the first Friday in March.

TN Div of Forestry was present on Arbor Day at Blue Creek Nature Center to hand out a variety of trees to anyone wanting to beautify their property or possibly stabilize an embankment. Mark Brown-



ing and Jesse Lomax were the local foresters on hand to talk to visitors about planting trees.

In addition to Arbor Day activities, Humphreys Soil Conservation District sold dogwood trees as a district fund raiser project. The project was a great success for the district with 550 dogwood trees being sold.

AmeriCorps members Elizabeth Hooper and Mike Milholland visited some local schools to plant dogwood trees with the students. After the tree planting ceremonies, each student was presented with a White Pine seedling to take home to plant with their parents.

Are You Ready for Summer?

Have you had enough of cold weather, runny noses, and trips to the doctor? Are you instead ready for warm weather, suntans, and trips to the lake? Despite the fun that is associated with water activities, the trips to the lake require water safety knowledge. Approximately six people were involved in fatal water accidents last year that may have been prevented with a little safety training.

The Humphreys Soil Conservation District hosted a Water Quality and Safety Workshop on March 28th. Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agents Robert Dougherty and Ken Smith were the guest speakers. Dougherty presented a program covering the basics of boating and water safety. A variety of water safety equipment were on display. TWRA also offered courtesy checks of any boat brought to the workshop. Participants that passed the check received a sticker to be displayed on the boat that denoted it as safety checked.



Another important aspect of the workshop was the portion dealing with water quality. Once boating season begins, the litter on the rivers and lakes usually increases. Participants that received a sticker to be displayed on the boat that denoted it as safety checked. AmeriCorps members Elizabeth Hooper and Mike Milholland discussed the effects of such litter and pollution on the aquatic wildlife and overall water quality of the rivers and lakes.

Kick off your boating season right this year! Learn more about water quality and safety. Knowing what to do in an emergency situation on the water could save a life. Please take time to prepare you and your family. For more information on water and boating safety call the Boating Safety Hotline, operated by the U.S. Coast Guard in Washington D.C., at 1-800-368-5647.

Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a pine, for example, one needs be neither god or poet; one need only own a shovel. By virtue of this curious loophole in the rules, any clodhopper may say: Let there be a tree - and there will be one. If his back be strong and his shovel sharp there may eventually be 10,000. And in the seventh year he may lean upon his shovel, and look upon his trees, and find them good.

- Aldo Leopold

What's New at the Nature Center

Now that Spring is finally here, there are a lot of changes taking place on the grounds at the nature center. Come out for a visit and have Elizabeth or Mike show you around!

- New wooden overlook on nature trail
- Additions to the Nature Exhibit Room
- New aquatic study area on Bear Creek
- Native grassland plot

Fertilize Your Pond...?

Every good farmer knows that crops require proper fertilization to produce good yields. However, how many pond owners know that fishponds must be fertilized to produce a good yield? A fertilized fishpond usually produces 2-3 times as much fish as an unfertilized pond. An unfertilized pond will generally produce about 50 pounds of fish per acre each year while a well-managed, fertilized pond will produce 150 pounds/acre or more of fish per year.

The object of fertilizing is to supply enough nutrients to induce the growth of microscopic plants called plankton which gives the water a green color called bloom. Plankton and insects serve as food for bluegill which in turn are the primary food source for bass.

Now is the time for fertilization to be started. Fertilization of a pond should be started around the first of April and should be continued through October 15. Application of 50 lbs. of 15-15-15 per surface acre should be made every 10 to 15 days over these seven months until the desired bloom color is reached. The desired bloom or green color is reached when a bright object is not visible in 12 to 18 inches of water. Once the desired color is obtained, further applications should be made every four weeks or as necessary to maintain proper bloom color.

Adding fertilizer to the pond starts a series of events that ends with more harvestable size fish. With a good food base established, the small aquatic organisms grow better and feed the larger aquatic insects and small fish. Eventually this new energy source of fertilizer passes through the many steps of pond life and you will see the progress of your pond through the result of a good fish yield.

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Margaret Forrester

Ray May

Eric Mayberry

Sam Reynolds

"It's About Time"

Those three little words are the national slogan for Earth Day 1995. April 22nd marks the 25th anniversary of the environmental stewardship celebration, Earth Day.

To pay tribute to this very special occasion the state of Tennessee has devoted a whole weekend to promoting environmental action. The event will take place in downtown Nashville on April 22 and 23.

Take the family to Nashville and enjoy activities, educational displays, music and more! For more information, contact the Earth Day Information Hot-Line:

1-800-232-1139

Tips for Planting a Healthy Tree

Planting a tree is the one act within reach of nearly every man, woman and child to improve the environment and make the world a better place to live. April is the perfect time to plant trees. Here are a few tips for planting a healthy tree.

Three Cardinal Rules for Tree Care Before Planting

1. Carry trees carefully - Be careful not to break branches
2. Keep roots moist! - Wrap bare roots in wet newspaper until ready to plant. Balled trees may be checked for dryness by finger length probing into the soil. Sprinkle with water if necessary.
3. Store tree in cool garage or shaded area out of the wind.

Planting Your Tree

- ♦ Soak tree roots in a bucket of water overnight before planting.
- ♦ Prepare a large enough hole to place tree roots without bending. Do not place tree too deep or too shallow. Cover roots approximately one inch above top root.
- ♦ Water tree thoroughly when planting. Continue watering once or twice a week for at least three weeks.
- ♦ Mulch the base of the tree with wood chips.
- ♦ Support young tree with wire and stakes to produce a straight tree.

Upcoming Events

April 5 - Five Rivers RC&D Envirothon

Blue Creek Nature Center

April 13 - District Board Meeting

8:30 AM

April 20-21 - "Celebrate the Earth" field day

Blue Creek Nature Center

April 22 - 25th Anniversary of Earth Day

April 30-May 7 - Soil and Water Stewardship Week

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Trail Talk

Humphreys Soil Conservation District
115 West Blue Creek Road
Waverly, Tennessee 37185

inside...

"Celebrate the Earth," Envirothon
Arbor Day, Water Workshop, Nature Center News
Earth Day, Tree Planting Tips, Conservation Tip
Upcoming Events

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Second Quarter Americorps Evaluation
Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative

1. **Americorps members enrolled at time of project launch:**
 - A. Jeremy Williams
 - B. Mary Russell
 - C. Mikhail DeLong
2. **Americorps members enrolled in project at end of first quarter:**
 - A. Jeremy Williams
 - B. Mary Russell
 - C. Mikhail DeLong
3. **Number of members terminated from the program:**

No members terminated from program
4. **Total number of hours of direct service performed per member:**
 - A. Jeremy Williams-980.50 hrs.
 - B. Mary Russell-953.50 hrs.
 - C. Mikhail DeLong-990 hrs.
5. **Total number of hours in training:**
 - A. Jeremy Williams-84 hrs.
 - B. Mary Russell-90 hrs.
 - C. Mikhail DeLong-108 hrs.
6. **Progress towards community service objectives:**
 - Conducted four (4) meetings of the Clinch-Powell Tourism Advisory Committee.
 - Established a Tennessee Wilderness Road Steering Committee.
 - Established a quarterly set of subgoals, action initiatives, and timeframes for the implementation of project objectives.
 - Facilitated seven (7) town meetings in the five (5) county area to explain the role of the AmeriCorps National Service Program and provide community input into the tourism planning process.
 - Outlined the needs and strategies for the creation of a sustainable nature-based tourism and specialty recreation tourism initiative incorporating the efforts of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Tennessee Valley Authority, United States Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the First and East Tennessee Development Districts.
 - Published 25 articles in regional and local newspapers as part of a comprehensive marketing effort to promote the AmeriCorps National Service Program and the efforts of the community-based tourism initiative.
 - Published the **first** tourism newsletter for the Clinch-Powell Region.

Competitive grant fund and the United States Forest Service Rural Development Fund. As of March 31, 1995, no decision on the grant monies had been made.

One grant for \$1,500 was written to the United States Forest Service Economic Recovery Program to cover the design costs for the development of a natural resource and specialty recreation map and guide. Printing and distribution of the maps will be handled through a partnership with the Clinch-Powell AmeriCorps Tourism Development Team, Tennessee Valley Authority, Middle East Tennessee Tourism Council, Northeast Tennessee Tourism Council, and the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development.

In efforts to increase the quantity and quality of attractions in the region, the initiative has taken on three (3) specific projects. In Hancock County, the Clinch-Powell AmeriCorps Tourism Development Team has joined forces with the AmeriCorps Vista workers at the East Tennessee Community Design Center in Knoxville to provide assistance to the Hancock County Historical Society and Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of redesigning and refurbishing the Hancock County Old Jail. One of only two buildings in the county on the National Historic Register, the structure is being saved from deterioration and redesigned to be used as a Melungeon Cultural Heritage Museum.

In Union County, technical assistance is being provided to the Union County Historical Society and Roy Acuff Museum by the Clinch-Powell AmeriCorps Team and the Tennessee Historical Commission to prioritize future expansion and exhibit design.

In Claiborne County, grant writing assistance is being provided to the Speedwell Academy Board of Trustees for the purposes of restoring Tennessee's Oldest Schoolhouse, Speedwell Academy.

7. Projected Outcomes for Next Quarter:

- Continue the strategic planning process with two (4) meetings of the Clinch-Powell Tourism Advisory Committee.
- Continue the Tennessee Wilderness Road driving tour planning process with two (2) meetings of the Wilderness Road Steering Committee.
- Secure funding for signage and interpretive roadside displays for the Tennessee Wilderness Road driving tour from the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and the Tennessee 200 Bicentennial Committee.
- Prepare printer ready layout and design for Tennessee Wilderness Road interpretive guide and map.
- Prepare printer ready layout and design for natural resource and specialty recreation guide and map for the Clinch-Powell Region.
- Increase marketing efforts for Grainger County Tomato Festival through series of three (3) media releases and articles to be published in regional travel journals.
- Publish 25 articles in local and regional newspaper on AmeriCorps related tourism efforts.

- Complete redesign plans and itemized list of materials and costs for restoration of the Hancock County Jail.
- Identify additional sources of funding for completion of Hancock County Jail and submit grant proposals accordingly.
- Increase local school children's awareness and appreciation of environmental issues by preparing and leading three (3) educational seminars at Clinch-Powell Conservation Camp.
- Supervise local high school students in the design and implementation of two (2) visible community service projects through the Learn and Serve program.
- Increase awareness and support of regional tourism projects through the release of two (2) editions of the Clinch-Powell tourism newsletter.
- Work with Speedwell Academy Board of Trustees to direct and coordinate Academy restoration project and identify funding sources for project completion.

8. Primary Challenges:

The primary challenges that have faced this project in the first quarter of service are rooted in the difficulties of coordinating human resources. The integration of this project's objectives are not always "greeted with open arms" by some existing organizations. Many of these problems can and were rectified by simply opening up lines of communication. A dedication to assist and support existing programs and efforts has allowed us to work through many of our initial difficulties. The road, however, is long and the partnerships and coalition building necessary for long term tourism development are far from completely forged.

9. Primary Training and Assistance Needs:

There are several areas of training which could potentially improve the job performance of Americorps members. The following are listed below:

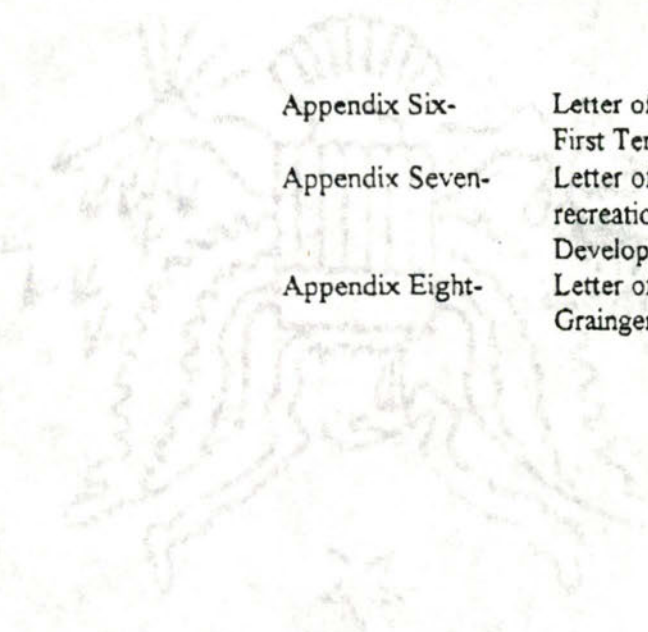
1. Seminars in public speaking and effective meeting organization
2. Seminar on working in rural communities
3. Computer assistance

The following are potential assistance needs for Americorps members:

1. A list of potential training opportunities offered by the NRCS and USDA.
2. Electronic mail accounts available for all members to provide easier dissemination of information and ease of intergovernmental communication.
3. Coalition building

10. Media Coverage and Appendix:

Appendix One-	Map of Tennessee Wilderness Road
Appendix Two-	Wilderness Road Press Release
Appendix Three-	Eco-Tourism Press Release
Appendix Four-	Hancock County Jail Press Release
Appendix Five-	Letter of support for the TN Wilderness Road from the Middle East Tennessee Tourism Council



Appendix Six-

Letter of support for the TN Wilderness Road from the
First Tennessee Development District

Appendix Seven-

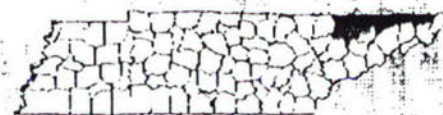
Letter of support for the natural resource and specialty
recreation guide and map from the First Tennessee
Development District

Appendix Eight-

Letter of support for the TN Wilderness Road from the
Grainger County Bicentennial Committee

The Tennessee Wilderness Road (Shown in Purple)

ROAD



source: Tennessee Dept. of Transportation

News Leader

Tourism Group

Discusses
Wilderness
Road

Tourism advocates from the Clinch-Powell region met to plan the framework for a driving tour along the historic Wilderness Road through Claiborne, Grainger, Hawkins, and Sullivan counties. The third committee meeting of the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation & Tourism Initiative, an AmeriCorps project sponsored by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, met in Rutledge February 23. The group is working to enhance state efforts in the development of this visitor attraction planned for the 1996 Bicentennial Celebration. Among those present, Don McLean, of the 25E Steering Committee, emphasized the need to focus on the actual historical route and the wealth of stories related to it. Glen Wingard and Dr. Doris Haywood of Walter State Community College suggested that local groups would be interested in doing some of the legwork for this. Beulah Ferguson, Director of the First Tennessee Development District discussed ways to identify the road for area visitors, including brochure stands, interpretive displays, and roadside markers. Lindy Turner, Project Coordinator for the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D), said the tour should include "different options for those with different interests or time schedules." This would encompass related historical sites nearby, as well as crafts, photo tours, outdoor recreation, area festivals and archaeological resources for the tourist researching family history.

The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Alan Bancfield, of the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service. Other committee members present included David Leitzke, of Clinch-Powell RC&D, and Kevin Collins, President of the Grainger Co. Historical Society and Chairperson for Grainger Co. Bicentennial Committee. They suggested a number of viable funding sources for the project.

10A The Claiborne Progress, Wednesday, February 8, 1995

Nature-based Tourism Americorps team works on local projects

An Americorps project based in Rutledge has recently begun the task of bringing an awareness of the area's natural beauty to a wider group of people.

The project, sponsored by the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council, aims at revitalizing the area's economy while preserving the small town way of life.

"Increased tourism doesn't have to lead to big hotels and malls. We prefer to develop this as a quieter place, with bed & breakfasts, cabins and campgrounds," said Libby Burgin, an advertising designer for the Shopper News.

The first meeting of the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative was held in December in Rogersville.

Tourism advocates from the region included Claudia Moody from North East Tennessee Tourism Council, Agnes Gorham from the Middle East Tennessee Development Council, and local tourism representatives from Hancock, Hawkins, Claiborne, Union and Grainger counties.

A discussion of area priorities focused on "nature-based tourism," which includes crafts and other aspects of cultural heritage as well as outdoor recreation opportunities.

The second meeting, held in Rutledge on January 17, included a presentation by Americorps members on the Wilderness Road project being developed statewide for Tennessee's bicentennial. This project can be developed along the lines of environmentally-sensitive tourism in the Clinch-Powell region. The group will continue to meet monthly to discuss projects involving the local historical societies, recreation areas and crafts people.

[The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited biases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiocassette, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.]

Crystal Gayle to perform with Knoxville Symphony

Crystal Gayle will be performing in concert with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra at the Civic Coliseum in Knoxville on Saturday, February 11.

Combining pop, country and blues, Crystal is an artist whose

the same accolade from the Academy of Country Music three times.

She received a Grammy for her performance of her multi-million seller, "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue." And she has been named "Favorite Female Country Vocalist" at the American Music Awards three times as well as being named "Favorite Country Female Video Artist."



Luther Brummett of Tazewell was the January winner New Tazewell Pizza Plus's "Pizza People Ring Twice." Pictured are David Rutter, (left) New Tazewell Pizza Plus owner, and Brummett.

Pizza Plus begins new cash giveaway program

Pizza Plus, a Bristol-based restaurant chain, began the richest promotion in the history of the company in January with Pizza People Ring Twice — an effort that will give \$30,000 cash to their customers.

Employees of every Pizza Plus location will distribute colorful hot air balloon-shaped magnets to households throughout their service area. Once an area has been covered, a Pizza Plus representative will then go back into the community and stop at randomly selected houses.

The first household to have their Pizza Plus magnet on the

refrigerator or right gerlips gets \$100 cash to company director Jerry Malone. Each location will give \$100 each month in 1995, so each store has lucky winners.

"To be eligible per at home and have Plus magnet on the or at their fingertips takes to win \$100."

Anyone who fails magnet can pick on nearest Pizza Plus. There is no charge net and no purchase

WSSC to hold choir auditions

The music department at Wallers State Community College will be holding auditions for scholarships for the 1995-96 academic year. The scholarships will be awarded to students who plan to participate in the college's choral group, the Sensations.

Auditions will be held 3-6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17; 3-6 p.m. Friday,

vocalizing to demonstrate and singing a prepared individual piece prepared, he sing "Amazing Grace" and a solo. Each singer will be accompanied by a pianist.

Prospective students want to audition college music department schedule a specific time for audition.



Press Release

For More Information, Call:

Jeremy C. Williams
Clinch-Powell Resource, Conservation,
and Development Council
Phone- (615) 828-3074
Fax- (615) 828-3856

For Release 11:21 AM EST
March 22, 1995

Rural and Urban AmeriCorps Join Forces to Restore Hancock County Jail

AmeriCorps members from the Rutledge based Clinch-Powell Resource, Conservation, and Development Council's Tourism Development Team have joined forces with the AmeriCorps Vista workers at the East Tennessee Community Design Center in Knoxville to help redesign the historic Hancock County Jail. Being only one of two buildings in the county on national historic register, the redesign and rehabilitation of the structure has been a priority for both the county and the Hancock County Historical Society for several years. Through a cooperative effort with the historical society and the Rutledge AmeriCorps team, the jail will be converted into a Hancock County and Melungeon Cultural Heritage Museum.

Redesign plans for the renovation of the building will be done through the AmeriCorps Vista sponsored East Tennessee Community Design Center. The center will provide technical design assistance and cost estimates to help the county and historical society refurbish the building to the strict standards of the National Historic Register. Additional technical assistance will be provided on the project by the Tennessee Historical Commission.

The renovation of the building is part of a larger tourism development effort in the area lead by the AmeriCorps Tourism Development Team. Other projects in the area include the development of the Daniel Boone Wilderness Road, a comprehensive nature-oriented tourism

*Rural and Urban AmeriCorps Join Forces to Restore Hancock County Jail**Page - 2*

plan, and the provision of technical assistance to enhance state and local efforts to develop greater amounts of tourism-related attractions.

For more information about tourism efforts in Hawkins, Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, and Claiborne Counties, call the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative at (615) 828-3074.

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Middle East Tennessee Tourism Council

P.O. Box 19806 • Knoxville, TN 37939-2806 • (615) 584-8353 • FAX (615) 584-5159

March 23, 1995

Mr. Roy Ashley
State Forester
Division of Forestry
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
40627 Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204-4026

re: Application for U.S. Forest Service Rural Development Grant by
Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council

Dear Mr. Ashley,

It has come to my attention that the Clinch-Powell RC&D Council is applying for a grant to print a guide map for the Wilderness Road. I urge you to provide funds for this project. The Wilderness Road is a natural and timely project for the Tennessee Bicentennial celebration in 1996. Tennessee has been lagging behind our neighboring states of Kentucky and Virginia in developing public awareness of this historical trail, a guide map for the Tennessee sections would be an invaluable asset to increase tourist visitation to the Clinch-Powell area.

There are several tourism promotion organizations which have marketing programs in place and could use the Wilderness Road guide map effectively. These include the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, the Claiborne County Tourism Council, the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association, and the Middle East Tennessee Tourism Council. These organizations, along with other organizations currently involved in economic development planning for the area, stand ready to support the efforts of the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism Initiative to bring the Wilderness Trail story to public attention, and thereby produce benefits for the area's economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Agnes Gorham
Regional Director

First
Tennessee
Development
District

207 North Boone Street, Suite 800 • Johnson City, Tennessee 37604
(615) 928-0924 • Fax (615) 928-5209

Carter March 23, 1995
Elizabethton
Watauga

Greene State Forester
Baileyton Tennessee Division of Forestry
Greeneville Department of Agriculture
Mosheim 40627 Melrose Station
Tusculum Nashville, Tennessee 37204-4026

Dear Sir:

Hancock The Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development
Sneedville Council, in association with the U.S. AmeriCorps project has
developed a tourism initiative focusing on natural and
recreational resources found in the Tennessee Counties of
Hancock, Hawkins, Claiborne, Grainger and Hamblen.
Hawkins A natural and recreational resource guide map is needed to
Bulls Gap bring attention to the outstanding nature-based tourism
Church Hill activities available for the rural tourist; and, of course,
Mount Carmel directions to these treasures is required.
Rogersville
Surgoinsville

Johnson The AmeriCorps participants have done an excellent job
Mountain City outlining the projects which best benefit the Clinch and
Powell Watershed.

Though the resource guide will initially benefit the
featured five-county region, the remainder of the First
Tennessee Development District and East Tennessee
Development District counties will benefit from the
Sullivan additional exposure created by visitors responding to this
Bluff City information.
Bristol
Kingsport

We support their efforts in this venture.

Sincerely,
Unkol
Erwin

Beulah Ferguson
Beulah M. Ferguson
Special Projects Coordinator

Washington
Johnson City bmf
Jonesborough

First
Tennessee
Development
District

207 North Boone Street, Suite 800 • Johnson City, Tennessee 37604
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Erwin

Beulah Ferguson
Beulah M. Ferguson
Special Projects Coordinator

Washington
Johnson City bmf
Jonesborough



Grainger County
Bicentennial Committee
P.O. Box 215
Rutledge, TN 37861
(615) 828-3375

26 February 1995
Rutledge, Tennessee

Ms. Kelly Tolson, Executive Director
Tennessee 200, Inc.
211 7th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Ms. Tolson,

I write to support the enclosed grant application. After meeting with individuals concerned with this project, I have been convinced of its worthiness.

The Wilderness Road project will continue long after the bicentennial has come and gone. It will benefit the local communities by reminding people of their heritage--both locals and tourists, increasing environmental awareness, and adding to the economic bases of the surrounding counties.

The cooperative nature of this project heightens its worthiness. Too seldom, it seems, do the "rugged individualists" of the mountains work as a unit to improve their circumstances. This venture may increase potential for further cooperative efforts in the area especially in the fields of history and historic preservation and interpretation.

I sincerely urge your thoughtful consideration and action on this proposal.
Thank you.

With gratitude,

Kevin D. Collins, President
Grainger County Historic Society
P.O. Box 215
Rutledge, TN 37861

Operating Site ID # Unknown

Corporation for National Service Operating Site Quarterly Report

1. Operating site name: Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council
2. Program name: Cherokee National Forest
3. Corporation Grantee name: USDA Forest Service
4. Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies: Second Quarter - 1/1 - 3/31/95
5. On what date did your AmeriCorps Members begin service or training? 9/12/94
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 of required Service	Full-time
2	2187	2

7. Please provide estimates of the following:

(a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: 1,438 volunteers.

(b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: 10,479 hours

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

Solid Waste Specialist Position

AmeriCorps Member Accomplishments During Second Quarter	Estimated Cost to Community if Service Provided on the Open Market*	Estimated Cost as Provided Through AmeriCorps**	Estimated Cost Savings to Community Through AmeriCorps
6,700 citizens in Hancock County, TN will soon have an approved collection site to take their trash as a result of AmeriCorps working through the red tape of the State to permit a convenience center collection site. Currently there is no approved collection in the county and about 50% of the waste is illegally dumped in streams, rivers and gullies.	\$3,400		

111,000 residents in the counties of Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union, TN now have a way to safely dispose of dangerous household hazardous waste like paint thinners, old paint, turpentine, used oil, antifreeze, pesticides, drain cleaners, etc. AmeriCorps Member has worked through the State and Laidlaw Environmental Services to provide five collection days where residents can bring their materials to a mobile collection unit for safe disposal. Events were publicized and promoted through 15 news clips, 500 posters, radio PSAs, notices through schools, etc.	\$4,000		
Member assistance helped convince state not to cancel a grant to a county when the county did not fulfill its obligations. Member stepped in to draft bid specifications for a recycling center and provide leadership in obtaining bids to satisfy the state. Member also stepped in to develop and draft bids for recycling equipment for the center. As a result, 18,000 citizens will soon have a place to take their recyclables (currently there is none in the county) and the county will meet a state mandate without penalty.	\$2,000		
Key technical assistance by Member was provided to a newly formed solid waste authority in researching and developing bid specifications for a possible transfer station to handle solid waste. This assistance is helping authority (composed of local citizens) to make informed decisions based on facts and research rather than guesstimates. Results will be more cost efficient and effective services for 27,000 county residents.	\$2,550		
Member developed a framework for providing critical technical assistance and training to city and county officials, solid waste workers (many can't read or write) and major business and industries in the area beyond the AmeriCorps term. This assistance and training is critical to helping local governments to meet stringent state and federal mandates. It will also provide considerable cost savings to the 5 individual counties because it will be carried out on a regional basis (results will be savings to local taxpayers). Member has also developed an initial funding plan and is seeking outside sources for initial program to lessen burden to 111,000 taxpayers.	\$2,500		

Member has crafted a unique and innovative program to help residents of the region off set expensive and valuable landfill space teaching them not to buy excess garbage at the stores to start with. This source reduction program will work directly with retailers and consumers in the store to change attitudes and behaviors. The best way to control garbage is not to buy it in the first place.	\$2,000		
Member has worked with community groups, teachers, school children to organize the first ever Earth Day Festival in one county to be held on April 15. About 60 students are preparing recycled art projects to be judged at the event, an earth quilt is being made by students, high school and community groups are planning activities to be held throughout the day, agencies will be manning exhibits, environmental songs and skits will run continuously. The festival will be held on the courthouse lawn with local officials participating and local businesses sponsoring. Member secured seed funding for this event by writing a grant which was approved from a private foundation.	\$2,000		
TOTAL	\$15,050	\$5,645	\$9,405

* Estimated at costs based on the known "going rate" in the RC&D region for similar services.

** Cost based on \$11.76/hr for AmeriCorps Member. Estimate \$20,000/Member (stipend plus educational award plus health plus basic support) divided by 1700 hours of service equals \$11.76. 12 wk/qtr X avg. 40 hr/wk X \$11.76 equals total.

Environmental Education Specialist

AmeriCorps Member Accomplishments During Second Quarter	Estimated Cost to Community If Service Provided on the Open Market*	Estimated Cost as Provided Through AmeriCorps **	Estimated Cost Savings to Community Through AmeriCorps
Member taught 933 students in 42 classrooms in five counties lessons to teach them to be more responsible citizens toward the environment and how to encourage grown ups to do the same (Garbage Busters). Don't litter, recycling and careful use of natural resources are key objectives in the lessons. This is a five week program in each classroom. Member administered 2,991 individual student lessons during 135 presentations. Member developed a Pre and Post Test to measure student learning and program effectiveness. The evaluation instrument is being administered to students.	\$3,375		

Member developed and conducted an in-service for 25 teachers from across Tennessee specifically teaching them about her environmental education program	\$200		
Member represents her region on the State Envirothon Committee (one state mtg this qtr) and is helping to organize the state event and is arranging for T-Shirts for participants.	\$300		
Member is totally responsible for and is organizing, promoting, training and facilitating a regional Envirothon competition to be held April 25. Participation has more than doubled (from 7 teams to 17 teams) since last year representing all but one eligible high school in the region. About 90 students are currently being trained for this team competition.	\$1,280		
Member is responsible for and is organizing a Conservation Camp for 1,200 sixth grade students and teachers including development of a companion workbook. Member has successfully located property and negotiated a lease for long term use of a riverfront environmental education center for the Camp and other environmental education programs. Pledges for assistance and participation have been obtained from 26 agencies and 6 school systems. Funding has been secured for the event to be held May 2, 3, & 4.	\$768		
Member has successfully secured funding through grants from outside funding to assist with funding Garbage Busters, Conservation Camp, Envirothon, and Water Wizards making it possible to administer 27,561 individual lessons to 2,629 students in order to continue preparing them to be environmentally conscious, action oriented adults. A total of \$36,667 has been secured as a result of members efforts through grants.	\$3,667		
Member has completely revised a third grade water quality curriculum called Water Wizards and is facilitating this education program to about 400 students in five counties. A total of nine lessons including a parental outreach component is enriching the third grade science curriculum	\$1,789		
Member is working with the TN Dept. of Education to have her programs evaluated and referenced to the state curriculum so that teachers can use them in lieu of and enhance required curriculum framework. Results will be mainstreamed environmental education.	\$200		
TOTAL	\$11,579	\$5,645	\$5,934

* Estimated at costs based on the known "going rate" in the RC&D region for similar services.

****** Cost based on \$11.76/hr for AmeriCorps Member. Estimate \$20,000/Member (stipend plus educational award plus health plus basic support) divided by 1700 hours of service equals \$11.76. 12 wk/qtr X avg. 40 hr/wk X \$11.76 equals total.

9. 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).

Any number of above accomplishments could be considered great stories.

10. 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.).

Direct Service Objectives

Solid Waste Specialist Objective #1: Provide technical assistance in solid waste management and recycling to communities in Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties, TN resulting in a 10 percent increased recycling rate and improved solid waste management through three grant proposals and two recycling program start ups as outlined in the Ten Year Regional Solid Waste Management Plans approved by the State of Tennessee.

Progress: Three grant proposals have been written seeking funding for needed source reduction, solid waste training programs and programs to raise citizen awareness. Technical assistance has been provided in solid waste management and recycling as outlined in accomplishments including: assistance with a convenience center collection system, a recycling center and a transfer station.

Environmental Education Specialist Objective #1: Conduct or arrange 150 environmental education presentations (written and verbal) resulting in increased knowledge of citizens as measured by pre and post program quizzes and interviews, with program quality judged by teachers and increased participation in environmental education programs of 15 percent in the region of Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties, TN.

Progress: 174 presentations to date through first and second quarter (135 in the second quarter). Testing instrument has been developed and is being administered to participants. A 28% increase in participation in environmental education has already been realized in the region.

Member Development

Individual Member Development Objective

Member development has included training in grant writing and training in Forest Service Rural Development programming in the regional office and solid waste training during a conference.

Solid Waste Specialist hours training in second quarter = 64 hours
Environmental Education Specialist hours training in second quarter = 56 hours

Community Building/Strengthening Objectives

Two members spent a day planting trees along a half mile stretch of the Clinch River in order to stabilize the riverbank.

Two members assisted with a leadership conference for 22 high school students. Members have agreed to serve and are being trained as advisors to teams of these leadership students for the remainder of their terms.

11. 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.)

Primary challenges have been related to member stress. Members are serving in positions with more responsibility than they have probably had before. Additionally, working with communities for change can be a slow and tedious process with big highs and big lows. Members also feel stress from pressure to produce big results in a short period of time and the uncertainty of the future of the AmeriCorps program. It is depressing and somewhat demoralizing to members to hear the program being rundown often in the media from Washington D.C. when they are working so hard in service to their country.

12. Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs this Quarter: Time management, Managing Stress, Leadership Training

13. National Identity Activities this Quarter:

Worked with AmeriCorps Members from NRCS to plant trees in a river restoration project on private land. News articles on programs have been published in the regions papers. Members prepared reports on their activities to present to the Tennessee Commission on National and Community Service and to Congressman Van Hilleary.

14. Changes in Program Organization or Key Staff Positions during this Quarter: No changes.