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Operating site ID number: 1651268015

Adrienne D. Perkins, Forest Economic Specialist Wytheville, VA

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

The central activities I have concentrated on have included newsletter production, tree identification outdoor classroom development, video footage collection, presentation preparation, and grant-writing.

Newsletter: I produced and distributed the first newsletter for the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Forestry Committee. This publication is meant to be a communication bridge between local government personnel, loggers, and agencies (local, state, and federal). Comments received were very favorable. The newsletter is sent to over 400 people and the list is growing. I have already written several articles for the next newsletter which will be mailed at the beginning of April. One important benefit of a newsletter article was the announcement of the five AmeriCorps Members working here in Wytheville and Marion, Virginia. It also let loggers know about a new kind of workman's compensation insurance, called self-insurance, that could prevent small logging operations from going out of business due to high insurance rates.

Tree identification project in Marion, Virginia: The Grassroots Conservancy and the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council received a Community Forestry Enhancement Grant to increase community understanding and awareness of how trees benefit the community. The grant requires the establishment of an outdoor lab and information center designed to enhance the use and value of the Marion Greenway Project. The project will result in increased awareness of tree species and how they contribute to the economy, environment and community. I produced 40 signs to go on top of identification posts placed in front of the selected trees on the trail. In an effort to aid Smyth County teachers in their use of the outdoor lab as part of their curriculum, I compiled a draft of a workbook which further describes the trees and their attributes. The cluster group is currently editing the proof we received from the printer. As part of our cluster I have met with the teachers of Smyth County interested in the implementation of this program to get their feedback on our ideas about the finished product. During a Saturday volunteer workday, I led a group of intermediate school science club volunteers as we painted stencils of the project logo on the sidewalks (to indicate the direction of the trail). I met with a committee to plan the field day (ribbon-cutting ceremony) required by the grant. To document progress, I filmed volunteers as they worked on the project. I successfully requested the donation of \$400.00 worth of three-ring binders for the teachers' workbooks and \$90.00 worth of printing costs, since our budget did not cover our need.

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Videography: I am assigned to a videography project for the Jefferson National Forest. The footage I collect will be edited and narrated by a professional company in Florida at no charge. When finished, it will be shown on the Discovery Channel and Public Television Stations (PBS). The goal of this project is to increase knowledge of the Jefferson National Forest, thereby increasing tourism dollars. This project has given me valuable filming experience which I never had before. This adds to the 20% training goal required by AmeriCorps members.

Presentations: Another project I am working on involves preparation of presentations to be given to economic development boards of the 17 Southwest Virginia counties. I have interviewed several professionals for information to be included in the presentations, and I have reviewed forest growth and removal statistics. I have written a draft of these presentations and will begin presenting them in the next quarter. The presentations will be aimed at encouraging increased, proper forest management for a more profitable future.

Grant-writing: Two fellow AmeriCorps Members and I went to Rutledge, Tennessee in January to a grant-writing training session and used this knowledge to write grant proposals. I developed a proposal for a recycling project for \$19,000 to be awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency through their Environmental Justice Program. This program is targeted to help low-income communities identify and assess pollution sources, to implement environmental awareness and training programs for affected residents, and to work with community stakeholders to diverse strategies for environmental improvements. Awards are expected to be made by May 31, 1995. Also, I developed a proposal for a Master Logger Program for \$12,000 awarded by the Forest Service Rural Development program. This program is to initiate projects the AmeriCorps Members have developed in conjunction with the local communities. Letters of intent will be issued by May 19, 1995.

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National Identity Activities this Quarter: (Report on activities this quarter that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. Examples could include new uniforms, signage or publicity materials; projects with other AmeriCorps programs; training Members in national skill areas (communications/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)

Newsletter Article: I placed an article announcing the AmeriCorps members (in Wytheville and Marion, Virginia) in the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Forestry Committee Newsletter which was mailed to over 400 people. These recipients included government officials, members in the logging industry and agencies (local, state, and federal).

Training: I participated in a training session in Memphis, Tennessee titled "Helping Small Towns Survive." It was presented for AmeriCorps Members by the Heartland Center for Leadership Development.

Award Nomination: I gave a presentation to the Marion Town Council and Ken Heath (Chairperson of Marion Downtown Revitalization Association). This included a progress report on the tree identification lab for which these groups nominated our cluster for the President's Choice Service Award

Changes in Program Organization or Key Staff

Positions during this Quarter: (Report staff turnover in management or supervisory positions, changes in partner/sponsor relationships, changes in board memberships, etc.)

Human Resource Coordinator for AmeriCorps: David Olson was replaced by Paul Paradzinski.

Operating site ID number: 1651268015

Training and Technical Assistance Operating Site Request Form

Operating site name: Wytheville, Virginia

Corporation Grantee/State Commission name:

Operating site ID number: 1651268015

I. T/TA REQUEST

1. Please briefly describe your need for T/TA. (What is the problem you are addressing? When do you need T/TA delivered?)

Please let me know what is available in the realm of training and technical assistance so that I may use this resource.

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.)

Award: Our cluster group was nominated for the President's Choice Service Award for our work on the tree identification lab in Marion, Virginia.

Operating Site ID #1651268015

DELTON ALDERMAN

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER

- 1) Completed writing the Teachers Manual and the Tree I.D. plaques for the Marion Riverwalk.
- 2) Completed Tree I.D. and marked each species with blue tree paint.
- 3) Purchased material necessary for Tree I.D. plaques and installation of posts.
- 4) Dug, assisted, supervised, and personally installed Tree I.D. posts.
- 5) Completed bridge design for two species of lumber, three lumber grades for each species, and five different bridge spans for each species and lumber grades.
- 6) The bridge designs have been reviewed and approved by the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory and by the USDA Forest Service Region 8 Bridge Engineer.
- 7) Developed grant proposal for a timber bridge initiative in the amount of \$18,500. The grant was submitted to the EPA. The grant, if awarded, will be to promote timber bridges in the New River Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Area and the remainder of Southwestern Virginia.
- 8) Developed AmeriCorps grant for designing and constructing nail-laminated pedestrian timber bridges for the Town of Tazewell. This proposal will also promote timber bridges in Southwest Virginia.

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DELTON ALDERMAN

AMERICORPS MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

Everyday that I work on timber bridge design, I receive training. Mike Ritter and James Kainz, USDA Forest Products Laboratory, Don Kyle, USDA Forest Service-George Washington-Jefferson National Forest Engineer, and John Zirkle, USDA Forest Service Region 8 Bridge Engineer, have been of great assistance to me and have helped my understanding of engineering greatly. I could not have progressed as I have without their assistance.

Attended a grant writing workshop in Rutledge, TN. The training and information was and is invaluable. I have a better understanding of the process and have written two grants since the workshop.

In December I attended a lumber grading workshop at Virginia Tech. The information learned is very valuable in bridge design, since design specifications are a direct result of the lumber grade used.

In January I attended a marketing seminar conducted by the TVA. The information will be used to develop marketing plans.

In March I attended a computer instruction seminar, learning further instruction on the use of Unix.

COMMUNITY BUILDING/STRENGTHING OBJECTIVES

I have worked since mid-September on the Marion Riverwalk-Tree I.D. cluster project. The results will allow teachers easily accessible tree species and a teaching manual, students will be able to learn and identify tree species, as well as the citizens of Marion and Smyth County.

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DELTON ALDERMAN

NATIONAL IDENTITY ACTIVITIES

Attended the Marion Town Council meeting as the AmeriCorps Cluster Group and described our efforts on the Marion Riverwalk.

Attended the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Area Forestry Committee meeting and presented the bridge designs to the group.

Distributed USDA Forest Service educational materials to the Marion School System.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

What services are available from the T/TA?

PRIMARY CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

- 1) Training Budget--I would like to know how much money is available for training and how much has been spent to date?
- 2) I know the Forest Service regularly schedules training, are we eligible to attend the training sessions?

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DELTON ALDERMAN

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I continue to work on designing temporary, portable stress-laminated hardwood timber bridges. I have completed the design specifications for five bridge spans, two hardwood species for those spans, and three different lumber grades for those spans.

The bridges can be readily used in timber harvesting operations and by rural families as a low-cost method for stream-crossing. They can also be used by agriculture and other allied fields.

The benefits are four-fold: 1) easily constructed and transported, 2) utilizes local renewable resources, 3) virtually eliminates erosion and stream sedimentation, and 4) could possibly lead to the development of a local bridge construction industry.

I have made arrangements with the USDA Forest Service Region 8 Bridge Engineer to pay for travel and related expenses for Mike Ritter and James Kainz, of the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory, to conduct the first timber bridge demonstration. The demonstration will cover aspects of design, construction, stressing, and field demonstration of a bridge that I have designed. The demonstration is part of the Timber Bridge Initiative grant.

Last fall I contacted over 100 fire departments, in addition to all town, city, and county managers; offering assistance in writing dry hydrant grant proposals. Only three fire departments responded, I wrote five proposals and all five were awarded.

The dry hydrants give fire departments a reliable and quickly accessed water supply. This allows homeowners greater protection from fire and reduced insurance rates.

I wrote the teachers Tree I.D. manual and the material for the Tree I.D. plaque, identified, and marked thirty-seven species, assisted in identifying three more species, and marked all trees and shrubs with tree paint. I costed and purchased materials necessary for the manual, plaques, and posts. I will also conduct two teacher training days and give tours on the Marion Riverwalk Field Day. I also introduced the Marion teachers to USDA Forest service educational materials and ordered those materials for them.

The America The Beautiful Grant requirements are being met by the cluster group, as well as teamwork skills being developed by the cluster group.

The Riverwalk Tree I.D. posts, and teachers manual will allow citizens and students to learn the identification of trees and their many uses.

James Pratt
Forest Products Marketing Specialist

Operating Site ID#: 1651268015

Primary Accomplishments this Quarter:

I have continued to work on a directory of wood-crafters/users in Southwest Virginia. This directory will be used to determine which species are in demand in this region, and as a means of putting local wood-users in contact with local wood-suppliers. In the course of this project I have succeeded in tracking down several wood-users using a diverse number of methods, including advertisements, word of mouth, and the Yellow Pages. I have also contacted several trade-show sponsors, co-ops, and wood-crafter associations through a letter and telephone campaign to request membership and mailing lists. After culling over several of the subsequent lists I have received, I have begun contacting wood-users and administering to them a questionnaire I have devised to assess what products and services exist and what needs are and not being met. Whenever possible, these interviews have been conducted in person, to better ascertain the needs of the interviewee. So far, a total of thirty-five interviews have been completed.

A project I and four other AmeriCorps members are working on involves the creation of an outdoor "laboratory" along the portion of the Holston River that runs through Marion, Virginia. Over the course of the past few months, we have identified forty trees along the river that are described in a tree identification workbook of our own design. The workbook, tentatively entitled *The Marion Riverwalk Tree Identification Guidebook*, is designed to aid teachers in instructing their students on the basics of dendrology (the study of trees). We have finished placing posts along the trail which will eventually bear plaques giving a short description of each tree. I have personally aided in the design and construction of the workbook and plaques, done most of the editing, designed the introduction to the workbook, aided in planting the posts, and acted as official photographer for the trail project. Currently, I am involved in organizing a Field Day to celebrate the completion of the Riverwalk. My duties include publicity and contacting prospective participants.

I have also written and submitted two grants designed to benefit the community and environment. 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. The second grant, which was for \$25,200 and will be submitted to the US Forest Service, seeks to establish a feasibility study of a timber bridge industry in Southwest Virginia.

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National Identity Activities this Quarter:

I have done a number of mini-presentations outlining AmeriCorps, as well as our individual and cluster projects. Groups I have done presentations for include the New River Highlands RC&D Forestry Committee and the Marion Town Council.

In the course of conducting interviews for my directory project I have informed several people of the AmeriCorps program and the opportunities it represents. Slowly but surely, information on AmeriCorps is spreading throughout Southwest Virginia.

Our AmeriCorps cluster group was nominated for the President's Choice National Service Award by the Marion Town Council and Mr. Ken Heath, the Marion Downtown Revitalization Association Chairperson, due to our work on the Riverwalk.

Changes in Program of Key Staff Positions during this Quarter:

None.

Operating Site ID#: 1651268015

Summary of Progress this Reporting Toward Accomplishing Annual Objective:

(1) Direct Service Objectives:

I have continued to work on a directory of wood-crafters/users in Southwest Virginia. The purpose of this project is to compile a directory of individuals or small businesses who produce finished wood products of any sort (furniture, hand crafts, musical instruments, etc.) on a relatively small (i.e. no large factories or industries) but full time basis. This project is intended to help the development of local markets and to realize optimum use of the forest resources by establishing a line of communication between wood producers and wood users in Southwest Virginia.

It is designed to provide information that will be used in the development of optimum utilization of local forest resources and improvement of business opportunities for people on both ends of the wood products industry. This information is sought by the New River/Highlands RC&D Council, which seeks to determine what sort of potential market exists for certain under-utilized species in Southwest Virginia, and whether there is sufficient cause to pursue these resources. It is hoped that as a result the local markets for certain types of lumber and finished products will be stimulated, through increased advertisement opportunities and facilitating communication between wood-users and suppliers.

To facilitate the collection of pertinent information I have designed a questionnaire intended to determine both the needs of wood-users and catalogue the products and services available in Southwest Virginia. The questionnaire includes inquiries about products manufactured, species utilized, and wood-waste/residue produced. So far, a total of thirty-five questionnaires have already been administered, and several potential contacts are established with each interview.

Several items have been developed in the course of implementing the Riverwalk Trail Project. After identifying a total of forty trees, my cluster group has put together a workbook that describes in detail each of the identified trees. A sufficient number of copies will be printed for each teacher in the Marion school system to have one. Also, we have designed plaques that give a general description of each tree. The plaques will be mounted on posts that we have already placed along the trail.

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(2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

Training opportunities I have participated in include a two-day grant writing workshop, a defensive driving course, the steps necessary in producing a marketing plan, and a five hour session on how to use the office computers. In addition, I completed a day-long seminar on lumber-grading, which has helped me immensely in understanding the needs of wood-users and basic terminology of the lumber industry. My participation in the organization of both the Appalachian Hardwood Expo '95 and the Riverwalk Field Day can also be considered a training experience. Skills gained include writing press releases and photography/videography.

I have also gained extensive grant writing experience through the two grants I have worked on through the New River Highlands RCAD Office. The first grant, which was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, involves a study of the types of and potential uses for wood-waste in Southwest Virginia. The second grant, which will be submitted to the US Forest Service, seeks to establish a feasibility study of a timber bridge industry in Southwest Virginia.

In addition, I plan to attend a forest products marketing workshop sponsored by Virginia Tech's Center for Forest Products Marketing on April 3-5.

(3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

The wood-products directory will benefit the community in numerous ways. The wood-products directory will answer two needs: A) a comprehensive inventory of what items and services are available from local suppliers in this region, and B) a means of putting local wood-users in contact with local wood-suppliers. Too often, local wood has to be shipped to out of state buyers. In addition, wood that could find a market here is left untouched because suppliers don't realize that a potential market exists. Also, wood users often look for specific species and/or grades out of state because they are unaware of what can be found in their own community.

The Riverwalk Trail Project is also designed to benefit the community and environment in a number of ways. While the major purpose of this project is to develop and focus tree identification skills, it also incorporates many other aspects. For example, the Riverwalk project is designed to promote environmental awareness, acting as an exercise in sharpening senses and appreciating nature. It is also intended to promote an understanding of the importance of forest resources and the many ways they relate to the environment.

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Primary Challenged Encountered this Quarter:

- 1) Inconsistent policies (method of handling time-sheets, etc.), which add to the frustrations inherent in any work environment.
- 2) I would like to be made aware of more training opportunities as soon as they become available, in that many have a limited number of slots and are presented on a first come, first serve basis.
- 3) I need to be made aware of AmeriCorps related responsibilities in a timely fashion (EX: this report) so I can give them the time and attention they deserve, rather than devoting an entire day to a "rush job."
- 4) I would like to know the amount of funds available in my training budget, so I can better ascertain which training opportunities I should pursue.

MS. AUDREY L. A. BIGGS
OUTREACH COORDINATOR
NEW RIVER-HIGHLANDS
110 W. SPILLER ST
WYTHEVILLE VA 24382

Corporation for National Service

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
(T/TA) OPERATING SITE REQUEST FORM

Operating site name: New River-Highlands R.C.D.

Corporation Grantee/State Commission name: USDA

Operating site ID number: 1051268015

I. T/TA REQUEST

1. Please briefly describe your need for T/TA. (What is the problem you are addressing? When do you need T/TA delivered?)

1. Communicative/Outreach planning - Community increased communication a
wareness of conservation and watershed development actions

2. Deadline with media and media assistance

3. Deadline with media and media assistance

2. Indicate the category of T/TA that would best meet your need. Please number your first three choices in order of priority.

① ☒ Regional/National Training/workshop

☐ Regional/National Tele-video Conference

② ☒ On-site training. If so, for whom? media

③ ☒ On-site consultation

Suggested consultant(s) Dr. Paul. ... USDA National Association
Conservation Service, Richmond VA

Number of days: 5 DAYS or more

Start date: _____

☐ One-on-one telephone consultation

☐ Resource Materials (curricula, readings, bibliographies, other)

☐ Peer exchange

④ ☒ Not sure what is most suitable

☐ Other _____

Operating : ID # 1651268015

Primary Accomplishment this quarter:

- Developed environmental justice grant for \$18,600. This grant program is designed to coordinate communication networks to increased public awareness of water quality issues. The communication project is designed to increase the awareness of water quality issues facing local watershed committees and the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area. The project will meet this objective by providing educational materials to the Committees and the general public while serving as a promoter of water quality improvement.

- The grant proposes that for the RC&D Council to remain effective as an environmental agent, they must develop a communication outreach project. The purpose of the Watershed Outreach Education Project is to provide a vehicle for community outreach. The project will target public officials, community leaders, committee members as well as the general public. The project will provide a means for developing newsletters for local watershed committees, preparing mailing lists and data bases, and training for community volunteers. In addition the project will assist local communities in identifying funding sources to continue their efforts. The project will also provide for direct committee outreach by setting up and directing press conferences for local Committee activities. This service will include planning Water Quality Conferences, arranging for press coverage, preparing press packets and arranging for speakers.

- Developed 6 press releases for newspaper with an average distribution 6,500 to 7000.

- Developed 2 workshop pamphlets with a distribution of 100 per activity.

- Developed 1 brochure for a local trail with a distribution of 1000.

- Organized field day activities, events and speakers for a day-event ceremony event for the Community of Marion; estimated attendance 200+. These activities included working with town officials and local agencies to schedule activities, create an agenda, and provide transportation to and from the event. These actions were accepted by the event committee to help develop into an event to fulfill a grant project that the AmeriCorps and a local conservation group are completing.

- Developed two quarterly newsletters. These newsletters have a 200 to 250 mailing distribution. The mailing list includes local officials, boards of supervisors, and elected officials in addition to the regular committee members and prospects.

- These presentations were to increase awareness of watershed improvement and activities of the committees.

- Prepared presentation materials for a VA. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts conference. These materials then were presented by members of a local watershed committee. The conference was given to 400 members and guests from across Virginia.

- Supervised the completion of two award nomination packages. This active included arranging for letters of nomination, of support and articles or pamphlets showing actions.

One of my great successes has been that I have positively worked with my assigned watershed groups. In fact, I have had opportunities to meet with many local citizens. All have been enthusiastic and helpful. One of my most

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Unique successes or "Great Stories"

One of my great successes has been that I have positively worked with my assigned watershed groups. In fact, I have had opportunities to meet with many local citizens. All have been enthusiastic and helpful. One of my most memorable meetings was at a council meeting at which the AmeriCorps members were scheduled to speak. A gentleman came to sit with the AmeriCorps members because the table held the closest seat. He then introduced himself as Trent. He was personable and Fun-loving. It was not until later that we were informed that he was the Mayor of the town. Since that evening, he has spoken on behalf of the AmeriCorps, and has helped us with other activities.

Another success is the nomination of the New River-Highlands RC&D AmeriCorps Cluster for our work on the Riverwalk Tree Identification Lab. The nomination is for the President's National Service Award.

Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter.

The Majority of the challenges this quarter have dealt with adjusting to the needs of grantees, whose projects we are assisting in, while maintaining the standards of the office. This is an important subjective area. Another challenge is staying within the designated boundaries of grants. I am learning a lot about compromise and management.

AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

The New River-Highlands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) AmeriCorps cluster has participated in meetings that have provided training, group support, and activities to complete the group project. Our five cluster members have bonded to work well on our community trail project.

Community Building/Strengthening Objectives

The community objectives requires that my AmeriCorps project identify necessary improvements in communication and coordination among existing community-based organizations and local, state, federal and other environmental projects. Through the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) area, I have worked on objectives and strategies to establish a public awareness of water quality concerns impacting their areas. To accomplish this, I have published newsletter that features local water quality issues and highlights actions that are being initiated to correct any identified concerns. These newsletters have increased the awareness of local, state and federal elected officials of the water quality problems in the Middle Fork Holston River Area.

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Some of these objectives are a challenge: like developing a substantial database, developing a knowledgeable volunteer base, increasing community participation as well as involving the media in the overall scope and frequency of environmental issues. The increase in news media, news releases and the regular transmittal of information to the committees will eventually reduce such challenges. My AmeriCorps activities will increase the public's exposure to these issues and thus increase the volunteer base, which will in turn provide a larger database of people interested in water quality issues.

National Identity Activities this Quarter:

In order to increase the public awareness of AmeriCorps and voluntary service, our AmeriCorps cluster has given 6 presentations to explain projects or activities in which we are involved. I have also written press releases, and am in the process of organizing a major public event to spotlight the AmeriCorps cluster project and the national day of service.

Promotional Identifiers:

I have really appreciated the promotional identifiers that you have provided, however, many of them are too casual for an office setting. With the exception of the name tags that the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service provides, most of the identity items were inappropriate at committee meetings, workshops, and professional media events. We were, however, able to use these at cluster activities and some of our less formal community service operations.

Our office has not been provided with a final copy of the AmeriCorps Handbook. The draft copy last draft copy that we have received has not contained all the answers to our questions. However, our supervisors have worked hard to find answers to them as they have occurred.

Changes in Program Organizations or Key Staff Positions during this Quarter:

There have been no changes in the management or supervising positions that I am aware of that have affected my position.

Mindy Clark - report

Operating site name: ~~Marion Riverwalk~~ Wytheville VA - New River-Highlands RCD

Corporation Grantee/State Commission name: Grassroots Conservancy

Operating site ID number: ~~unknown~~ 15 51 26 80 15

1. Training in public communications and leadership and presentation skills would be beneficial, since I am dealing with local government officials and community groups. Although I possess the educational qualifications for this job, I find that my opinion is not respected.

2. a On-site consultation - Troy Brown, TVA Landscape Architect, two to three days, soon.

b Resource Materials: horticultural references, videos explaining the process of landscape consultation, tree-pruning, information on carrying out ISTEA grants. These could be available to anyone visiting the GC office.

c Peer exchange

National Identity Activities this quarter: Along with occasional mention in the local newspaper our Americorps cluster was honored in receiving a nomination for President's Choice National Service Award by Henry Bocker, Town Manager and Ken Heath, Marion Downtown Revitalization Association Chairman during the Town Council Meeting.

Changes in Program Organization. During the most recent Grassroots Conservancy meeting (3/27) it was announced that Gary Peacock was voted into a leadership role on the board.

Primary Accomplishments:

Prepared three kiosk designs and drew specifications for the one chosen.

Created a series of stencils for imprinting GC logos on sidewalks and supervised their completion.

Met with the Recreation Department and Town Council to speak on behalf on the Tree City USA program.

Presented an appeal for voluntary help to the Marion Intermediate School Science Club and led an exercise in keying twigs of various trees using a key I adapted specifically for the Riverwalk. Supervised the students in staining, sanding and painting of tree identification posts and stencilling of logos on four consecutive Saturdays.

Coordinated tools, materials, donations, people, times and locations for numerous details concerning the Community Forestry Enhancement Project grant. Designed posts and plaques.

Prepared visual aids such as planting plans, laminated photos of Riverwalk and maps.

(1) Riverwalk will provide recreation and wildlife habitat for Marion residents and tourists. It is important that the three segments of the trail be connected. After considering as many aspects of the trail as possible, I have discovered a temporary route as well as a suggested future route. This future route would allow uninterrupted biking throughout a large portion of the trail. Plans for wheel-chair accessibility on portions of each segment have been considered and will be developed further.

2) I consider the experience of working on a group goal (tree identification project) a unique training opportunity. We have striven to obtain a consensus in most decisions and to assign tasks to those individuals most capable in meeting them. This has created a viable and interactive synthesis of talents and personalities of the organism that has come to be known as our cluster.

3) The important outcome of working on the tree identification project is witnessing individuals and different volunteer groups catch interest and commit to various tasks involved with completing the specifics of the grant. I have seen apathy change to curiosity, and curiosity become vision. This is the process by which community involvement grows.

Challenges Encountered: When I began my position I understood there would initially be little supervision. However, I did not expect this situation to last for a period of almost five months. As a result, I was not properly introduced to those people I would be working with, and thus got off to a poor start. Because they were unsure of my capabilities, everything I suggested was excessively questioned and debated to such an extent that little progress could be made. While I realize that not all of my suggestions would be adopted, I feel that an attitude of utter disrespect prevailed throughout the supposedly interactive process of decision-making. My role in this project, as well as who my true supervisors are, was nebulous from the start and remains undefined. I feel that the lack of respect for my position has escalated, damaging my ability to comfortably share ideas with my alleged co-workers.

Operating site ID number: 1651268015

Adrienne D. Perkins, Forest Economic Specialist Wytheville, VA

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

The central activities I have concentrated on have included newsletter production, tree identification outdoor classroom development, video footage collection, presentation preparation, and grant-writing.

Newsletter: I produced and distributed the first newsletter for the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Forestry Committee. This publication is meant to be a communication bridge between local government personnel, loggers, and agencies (local, state, and federal). Comments received were very favorable. The newsletter is sent to over 400 people and the list is growing. I have already written several articles for the next newsletter which will be mailed at the beginning of April. One important benefit of a newsletter article was the announcement of the five AmeriCorps Members working here in Wytheville and Marion, Virginia. It also let loggers know about a new kind of workman's compensation insurance, called self-insurance, that could prevent small logging operations from going out of business due to high insurance rates.

Tree identification project in Marion, Virginia: The Grassroots Conservancy and the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council received a Community Forestry Enhancement Grant to increase community understanding and awareness of how trees benefit the community. The grant requires the establishment of an outdoor lab and information center designed to enhance the use and value of the Marion Greenway Project. The project will result in increased awareness of tree species and how they contribute to the economy, environment and community. I produced 40 signs to go on top of identification posts placed in front of the selected trees on the trail. In an effort to aid Smyth County teachers in their use of the outdoor lab as part of their curriculum, I compiled a draft of a workbook which further describes the trees and their attributes. The cluster group is currently editing the proof we received from the printer. As part of our cluster I have met with the teachers of Smyth County interested in the implementation of this program to get their feedback on our ideas about the finished product. During a Saturday volunteer workday, I led a group of intermediate school science club volunteers as we painted stencils of the project logo on the sidewalks (to indicate the direction of the trail). I met with a committee to plan the field day (ribbon-cutting ceremony) required by the grant. To document progress, I filmed volunteers as they worked on the project. I successfully requested the donation of \$400.00 worth of three-ring binders for the teachers' workbooks and \$90.00 worth of printing costs, since our budget did not cover our need.

Operating site ID number: 1651268015

Videography: I am assigned to a videography project for the Jefferson National Forest. The footage I collect will be edited and narrated by a professional company in Florida at no charge. When finished, it will be shown on the Discovery Channel and Public Television Stations (PBS). The goal of this project is to increase knowledge of the Jefferson National Forest, thereby increasing tourism dollars. This project has given me valuable filming experience which I never had before. This adds to the 20% training goal required by AmeriCorps members.

Presentations: Another project I am working on involves preparation of presentations to be given to economic development boards of the 17 Southwest Virginia counties. I have interviewed several professionals for information to be included in the presentations, and I have reviewed forest growth and removal statistics. I have written a draft of these presentations and will begin presenting them in the next quarter. The presentations will be aimed at encouraging increased, proper forest management for a more profitable future.

Grant-writing: Two fellow AmeriCorps Members and I went to Rutledge, Tennessee in January to a grant-writing training session and used this knowledge to write grant proposals. I developed a proposal for a recycling project for \$19,000 to be awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency through their Environmental Justice Program. This program is targeted to help low-income communities identify and assess pollution sources, to implement environmental awareness and training programs for affected residents, and to work with community stakeholders to diverse strategies for environmental improvements. Awards are expected to be made by May 31, 1995. Also, I developed a proposal for a Master Logger Program for \$12,000 awarded by the Forest Service Rural Development program. This program is to initiate projects the AmeriCorps Members have developed in conjunction with the local communities. Letters of intent will be issued by May 19, 1995.

Operating site ID number: 1651268015

National Identity Activities this Quarter: (Report on activities this quarter that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. Examples could include new uniforms, signage or publicity materials; projects with other AmeriCorps programs; training Members in national skill areas (communications/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)

Newsletter Article: I placed an article announcing the AmeriCorps members (in Wytheville and Marion, Virginia) in the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Forestry Committee Newsletter which was mailed to over 400 people. These recipients included government officials, members in the logging industry and agencies (local, state, and federal).

Training: I participated in a training session in Memphis, Tennessee titled "Helping Small Towns Survive." It was presented for AmeriCorps Members by the Heartland Center for Leadership Development.

Award Nomination: I gave a presentation to the Marion Town Council and Ken Heath (Chairperson of Marion Downtown Revitalization Association). This included a progress report on the tree identification lab for which these groups nominated our cluster for the President's Choice Service Award

Changes in Program Organization or Key Staff

Positions during this Quarter: (Report staff turnover in management or supervisory positions, changes in partner/sponsor relationships, changes in board memberships, etc.)

Human Resource Coordinator for AmeriCorps: David Olson was replaced by Paul Paradzinski.

Operating site ID number: 1651268015

Training and Technical Assistance Operating Site Request Form

Operating site name: Wytheville, Virginia

Corporation Grantee/State Commission name:

Operating site ID number: 1651268015

I. T/TA REQUEST

1. Please briefly describe your need for T/TA. (What is the problem you are addressing? When do you need T/TA delivered?)

Please let me know what is available in the realm of training and technical assistance so that I may use this resource.

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.)

Award: Our cluster group was nominated for the President's Choice Service Award for our work on the tree identification lab in Marion, Virginia.

Operating Site ID #1651268015

DELTON ALDERMAN

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER

- 1) Completed writing the Teachers Manual and the Tree I.D. plaques for the Marion Riverwalk.
- 2) Completed Tree I.D. and marked each species with blue tree paint.
- 3) Purchased material necessary for Tree I.D. plaques and installation of posts.
- 4) Dug, assisted, supervised, and personally installed Tree I.D. posts.
- 5) Completed bridge design for two species of lumber, three lumber grades for each species, and five different bridge spans for each species and lumber grades.
- 6) The bridge designs have been reviewed and approved by the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory and by the USDA Forest Service Region 8 Bridge Engineer.
- 7) Developed grant proposal for a timber bridge initiative in the amount of \$18,500. The grant was submitted to the EPA. The grant, if awarded, will be to promote timber bridges in the New River Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Area and the remainder of Southwestern Virginia.
- 8) Developed AmeriCorps grant for designing and constructing nail-laminated pedestrian timber bridges for the Town of Tazewell. This proposal will also promote timber bridges in Southwest Virginia.

Operating Site ID # 1651268015

DELTON ALDERMAN

AMERICORPS MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

Everyday that I work on timber bridge design, I receive training. Mike Ritter and James Kainz, USDA Forest Products Laboratory, Don Kyle, USDA Forest Service-George Washington-Jefferson National Forest Engineer, and John Zirkle, USDA Forest Service Region 8 Bridge Engineer, have been of great assistance to me and have helped my understanding of engineering greatly. I could not have progressed as I have without their assistance.

Attended a grant writing workshop in Rutledge, TN. The training and information was and is invaluable. I have a better understanding of the process and have written two grants since the workshop.

In December I attended a lumber grading workshop at Virginia Tech. The information learned is very valuable in bridge design, since design specifications are a direct result of the lumber grade used.

In January I attended a marketing seminar conducted by the TVA. The information will be used to develop marketing plans.

In March I attended a computer instruction seminar, learning further instruction on the use of Unix.

COMMUNITY BUILDING/STRENGTHING OBJECTIVES

I have worked since mid-September on the Marion Riverwalk-Tree I.D. cluster project. The results will allow teachers easily accessible tree species and a teaching manual, students will be able to learn and identify tree species, as well as the citizens of Marion and Smyth County.

Operating Site ID #1651268015

DELTON ALDERMAN

NATIONAL IDENTITY ACTIVITIES

Attended the Marion Town Council meeting as the AmeriCorps Cluster Group and described our efforts on the Marion Riverwalk.

Attended the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Area Forestry Committee meeting and presented the bridge designs to the group.

Distributed USDA Forest Service educational materials to the Marion School System.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

What services are available from the T/TA?

PRIMARY CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

- 1) Training Budget--I would like to know how much money is available for training and how much has been spent to date?
- 2) I know the Forest Service regularly schedules training, are we eligible to attend the training sessions?

Operating Site ID #1651268015

DELTON ALDERMAN

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I continue to work on designing temporary, portable stress-laminated hardwood timber bridges. I have completed the design specifications for five bridge spans, two hardwood species for those spans, and three different lumber grades for those spans.

The bridges can be readily used in timber harvesting operations and by rural families as a low-cost method for stream-crossing. They can also be used by agriculture and other allied fields.

The benefits are four-fold: 1) easily constructed and transported, 2) utilizes local renewable resources, 3) virtually eliminates erosion and stream sedimentation, and 4) could possibly lead to the development of a local bridge construction industry.

I have made arrangements with the USDA Forest Service Region 8 Bridge Engineer to pay for travel and related expenses for Mike Ritter and James Kainz, of the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory, to conduct the first timber bridge demonstration. The demonstration will cover aspects of design, construction, stressing, and field demonstration of a bridge that I have designed. The demonstration is part of the Timber Bridge Initiative grant.

Last fall I contacted over 100 fire departments, in addition to all town, city, and county managers; offering assistance in writing dry hydrant grant proposals. Only three fire departments responded, I wrote five proposals and all five were awarded.

The dry hydrants give fire departments a reliable and quickly accessed water supply. This allows homeowners greater protection from fire and reduced insurance rates.

I wrote the teachers Tree I.D. manual and the material for the Tree I.D. plaque, identified, and marked thirty-seven species, assisted in identifying three more species, and marked all trees and shrubs with tree paint. I costed and purchased materials necessary for the manual, plaques, and posts. I will also conduct two teacher training days and give tours on the Marion Riverwalk Field Day. I also introduced the Marion teachers to USDA Forest service educational materials and ordered those materials for them.

The America The Beautiful Grant requirements are being met by the cluster group, as well as teamwork skills being developed by the cluster group.

The Riverwalk Tree I.D. posts, and teachers manual will allow citizens and students to learn the identification of trees and their many uses.

James Pratt
Forest Products Marketing Specialist

Operating Site ID#: 1651268015

Primary Accomplishments this Quarter:

I have continued to work on a directory of wood-crafters/users in Southwest Virginia. This directory will be used to determine which species are in demand in this region, and as a means of putting local wood-users in contact with local wood-suppliers. In the course of this project I have succeeded in tracking down several wood-users using a diverse number of methods, including advertisements, word of mouth, and the Yellow Pages. I have also contacted several trade-show sponsors, co-ops, and wood-crafter associations through a letter and telephone campaign to request membership and mailing lists. After culling over several of the subsequent lists I have received, I have begun contacting wood-users and administering to them a questionnaire I have devised to assess what products and services exist and what needs are and not being met. Whenever possible, these interviews have been conducted in person, to better ascertain the needs of the interviewee. So far, a total of thirty-five interviews have been completed.

A project I and four other AmeriCorps members are working on involves the creation of an outdoor "laboratory" along the portion of the Holston River that runs through Marion, Virginia. Over the course of the past few months, we have identified forty trees along the river that are described in a tree identification workbook of our own design. The workbook, tentatively entitled **The Marion Riverwalk Tree Identification Guidebook**, is designed to aid teachers in instructing their students on the basics of dendrology (the study of trees). We have finished placing posts along the trail which will eventually bear plaques giving a short description of each tree. I have personally aided in the design and construction of the workbook and plaques, done most of the editing, designed the introduction to the workbook, aided in planting the posts, and acted as official photographer for the trail project. Currently, I am involved in organizing a Field Day to celebrate the completion of the Riverwalk. My duties include publicity and contacting prospective participants.

I have also written and submitted two grants designed to benefit the community and environment. 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. The second grant, which was for \$25,200 and will be submitted to the US Forest Service, seeks to establish a feasibility study of a timber bridge industry in Southwest Virginia.

Operating Site ID#: 1651268015

National Identity Activities this Quarter:

I have done a number of mini-presentations outlining AmeriCorps, as well as our individual and cluster projects. Groups I have done presentations for include the New River Highlands RC&D Forestry Committee and the Marion Town Council.

In the course of conducting interviews for my directory project I have informed several people of the AmeriCorps program and the opportunities it represents. Slowly but surely, information on AmeriCorps is spreading throughout Southwest Virginia.

Our AmeriCorps cluster group was nominated for the President's Choice National Service Award by the Marion Town Council and Mr. Ken Heath, the Marion Downtown Revitalization Association Chairperson, due to our work on the Riverwalk.

Changes in Program of Key Staff Positions during this Quarter:

None.

Operating Site ID#: 1651268015

Summary of Progress this Reporting Toward Accomplishing Annual Objective:

(1) Direct Service Objectives:

I have continued to work on a directory of wood-crafters/users in Southwest Virginia. The purpose of this project is to compile a directory of individuals or small businesses who produce finished wood products of any sort (furniture, hand crafts, musical instruments, etc.) on a relatively small (i.e. no large factories or industries) but full time basis. This project is intended to help the development of local markets and to realize optimum use of the forest resources by establishing a line of communication between wood producers and wood users in Southwest Virginia.

It is designed to provide information that will be used in the development of optimum utilization of local forest resources and improvement of business opportunities for people on both ends of the wood products industry. This information is sought by the New River/Highlands RC&D Council, which seeks to determine what sort of potential market exists for certain under-utilized species in Southwest Virginia, and whether there is sufficient cause to pursue these resources. It is hoped that as a result the local markets for certain types of lumber and finished products will be stimulated, through increased advertisement opportunities and facilitating communication between wood-users and suppliers.

To facilitate the collection of pertinent information I have designed a questionnaire intended to determine both the needs of wood-users and catalogue the products and services available in Southwest Virginia. The questionnaire includes inquiries about products manufactured, species utilized, and wood-waste/residue produced. So far, a total of thirty-five questionnaires have already been administered, and several potential contacts are established with each interview.

Several items have been developed in the course of implementing the Riverwalk Trail Project. After identifying a total of forty trees, my cluster group has put together a workbook that describes in detail each of the identified trees. A sufficient number of copies will be printed for each teacher in the Marion school system to have one. Also, we have designed plaques that give a general description of each tree. The plaques will be mounted on posts that we have already placed along the trail.

Operating Site ID#: 1651268015

(2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

Training opportunities I have participated in include a two-day grant writing workshop, a defensive driving course, the steps necessary in producing a marketing plan, and a five hour session on how to use the office computers. In addition, I completed a day-long seminar on lumber-grading, which has helped me immensely in understanding the needs of wood-users and basic terminology of the lumber industry. My participation in the organization of both the Appalachian Hardwood Expo '95 and the Riverwalk Field Day can also be considered a training experience. Skills gained include writing press releases and photography/videography.

I have also gained extensive grant writing experience through the two grants I have worked on through the New River Highlands RC&D Office. The first grant, which was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, involves a study of the types of and potential uses for wood-waste in Southwest Virginia. The second grant, which will be submitted to the US Forest Service, seeks to establish a feasibility study of a timber bridge industry in Southwest Virginia.

In addition, I plan to attend a forest products marketing workshop sponsored by Virginia Tech's Center for Forest Products Marketing on April 3-5.

(3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

The wood-products directory will benefit the community in numerous ways. The wood-products directory will answer two needs: A) a comprehensive inventory of what items and services are available from local suppliers in this region, and B) a means of putting local wood-users in contact with local wood-suppliers. Too often, local wood has to be shipped to out of state buyers. In addition, wood that could find a market here is left untouched because suppliers don't realize that a potential market exists. Also, wood users often look for specific species and/or grades out of state because they are unaware of what can be found in their own community.

The Riverwalk Trail Project is also designed to benefit the community and environment in a number of ways. While the major purpose of this project is to develop and focus tree identification skills, it also incorporates many other aspects. For example, the Riverwalk project is designed to promote environmental awareness, acting as an exercise in sharpening senses and appreciating nature. It is also intended to promote an understanding of the importance of forest resources and the many ways they relate to the environment.

Operating Site ID#: 1651268015

Primary Challenged Encountered this Quarter:

- 1) Inconsistent policies (method of handling time-sheets, etc.), which add to the frustrations inherent in any work environment.
- 2) I would like to be made aware of more training opportunities as soon as they become available, in that many have a limited number of slots and are presented on a first come, first serve basis.
- 3) I need to be made aware of AmeriCorps related responsibilities in a timely fashion (EX: this report) so I can give them the time and attention they deserve, rather than devoting an entire day to a "rush job."
- 4) I would like to know the amount of funds available in my training budget, so I can better ascertain which training opportunities I should pursue.

MS. AUDREY L. A. BIGGS
OUTREACH COORDINATOR
NEW RIVER-HIGHLANDS
110 W. SPILLER ST
WYTHEVILLE VA 24382

Corporation for National Service

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
(T/TA) OPERATING SITE REQUEST FORMOperating site name: New River-Highlands R.C.G.D.Corporation Grantee/State Commission name: USDAOperating site ID number: 1051268015

I. T/TA REQUEST

1. Please briefly describe your need for T/TA. (What is the problem you are addressing? When do you need T/TA delivered?)

1. Communication/Conference planning - Community increased communication and awareness of conservation and watershed development actions
 2. Deadline using media and media assistance
 3. Developing a watershed plan

2. Indicate the category of T/TA that would best meet your need. Please number your first three choices in order of priority.

③ ☒ Regional/National Training/workshop
☐ Regional/National Tele-video Conference
 ① ☒ On-site training. If so, for whom? myself
 ① ☒ On-site consultation
 Suggested consultant(s) Pat Paul, USDA National Assistant Conservation Service, Richmond VA
 Number of days: 6-5 DAYS approx
 Start date: _____
☐ One-on-one telephone consultation
☐ Resources Materials (curricula, readings, bibliographies, other) _____
☐ Peer exchange
 ② ☒ Not sure what is most suitable
☐ Other _____

Operating : ID # 1651268015**Primary Accomplishment this quarter:**

- Developed environmental justice grant for \$18,600. This grant program is designed to coordinate communication networks to increased public awareness of water quality issues. The communication project is designed to increase the awareness of water quality issues facing local watershed committees and the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area. The project will meet this objective by providing educational materials to the Committees and the general public while serving as a promoter of water quality improvement.

- The grant proposes that for the RC&D Council to remain effective as an environmental agent, they must develop a communication outreach project. The purpose of the Watershed Outreach Education Project is to provide a vehicle for community outreach. The project will target public officials, community leaders, committee members as well as the general public. The project will provide a means for developing newsletters for local watershed committees, preparing mailing lists and data bases, and training for community volunteers. In addition the project will assist local communities in identifying funding sources to continue their efforts. The project will also provide for direct committee outreach by setting up and directing press conferences for local Committee activities. This service will include planning Water Quality Conferences, arranging for press coverage, preparing press packets and arranging for speakers.

- Developed 6 press releases for newspaper with an average distribution 6,500 to 7000.

- Developed 12 workshop pamphlets with a distribution of 100 per activity.

- Developed 1 brochure for a local trail with a distribution of 1000.

- Organized field day activities, events and speakers for a day-event ceremony event for the Community of Marion; estimated attendance 200+. These activities included working with town officials and local agencies to schedule activities, create an agenda, and provide transportation to and from the event. These actions were accepted by the event committee to help develop into an event to fulfill a grant project that the AmeriCorps and a local conservation group are completing.

- Developed two quarterly newsletters. These newsletters have a 200 to 250 mailing distribution. The mailing list includes local officials, boards of supervisors, and elected officials in addition to the regular committee members and prospects.

- These presentations were to increase awareness of watershed improvement and activities of the committees.

- Prepared presentation materials for a VA. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts conference. These materials then were presented by members of a local watershed committee. The conference was given to 400 members and guests from across Virginia.

- Supervised the completion of two award nomination packages. This active included arranging for letters of nomination, of support and articles or pamphlets showing actions.

One of my great successes has been that I have positively worked with my assigned watershed groups. In fact, I have had opportunities to meet with many local citizens. All have been enthusiastic and helpful. One of my most

Operating e ID # 1651268015

Unique successes or "Great Stories"

One of my great successes has been that I have positively worked with my assigned watershed groups. In fact, I have had opportunities to meet with many local citizens. All have been enthusiastic and helpful. One of my most memorable meetings was at a council meeting at which the AmeriCorps members were scheduled to speak. A gentleman came to sit with the AmeriCorps members because the table held the closest seat. He then introduced himself as Trent. He was personable and Fun-loving. It was not until later that we were informed that he was the Mayor of the town. Since that evening, he has spoken on behalf of the AmeriCorps, and has helped us with other activities.

Another, success is the nomination of the New River-Highlands (RC&D) AmeriCorps Cluster for our work on the Riverwalk Tree Identification Lab. The nomination is for the President's National Service Award.

Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter.

The Majority of the challenges this quarter have dealt with adjusting to the needs of grantees, whose projects we are assisting in, while maintaining the standards of the office. This is an important subjective area. Another challenge is staying within the designated boundaries of grants. I am learning a lot about compromise and management.

AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

The New River-Highlands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) AmeriCorps cluster has participated in meetings that have provided training, group support, and activities to complete the group project. Our five cluster members have bonded to work well on our community trail project.

Community Building/Strengthening Objectives

The community objectives requires that my AmeriCorps project identify necessary improvements in communication and coordination among existing community-based organizations and local, state, federal and other environmental projects. Through the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) area, I have worked on objectives and strategies to establish a public awareness of water quality concerns impacting their areas. To accomplish this, I have published newsletter that features local water quality issues and highlights actions that are being initiated to correct any identified concerns. These newsletters have increased the awareness of local, state and federal elected officials of the water quality problems in the Middle Fork Holston River Area.

Operat. Site ID # 1651268015

Some of these objectives are a challenge: like developing a substantial database, developing a knowledgeable volunteer base, increasing community participation as well as involving the media in the overall scope and frequency of environmental issues. The increase in news media, news releases and the regular transmittal of information to the committees will eventually reduce such challenges. My AmeriCorps activities will increase the public's exposure to these issues and thus increase the volunteer base, which will in turn provide a larger database of people interested in water quality issues.

National Identity Activities this Quarter:

In order to increase the public awareness of AmeriCorps and voluntary service, our AmeriCorps cluster has given 6 presentations to explain projects or activities in which we are involved. I have also written press releases, and am in the process of organizing a major public event to spotlight the AmeriCorps cluster project and the national day of service.

Promotional Identifiers:

I have really appreciated the promotional identifiers that you have provided, however; many of them are too causal for an office setting. With the exception of the name tags that the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service provides, most of the identity items were inappropriate at committee meetings, workshops, and professional media events. We were, however, able to use these at cluster activities and some of our less formal community service operations.

Our office has not been provided with a final copy of the AmeriCorps Handbook. The draft copy last draft copy that we have received has not contained all the answers to our questions. However, our supervisors have worked hard to find answers to them as they have occurred.

Changes in Program Organizations or Key Staff Positions during this Quarter:

There have been no changes in the management or supervising positions that I am aware of that have affected my position.

Mindy Clark - report

Operating site name: ~~Marion Riverwalk~~ Wytheville VA - New River-Highlands RCD

Corporation Grantee/State Commission name: Grassroots Conservancy

Operating site ID number: ~~unknown~~ 16 51 26 80 15

1. Training in public communications and leadership and presentation skills would be beneficial, since I am dealing with local government officials and community groups. Although I possess the educational qualifications for this job, I find that my opinion is not respected.

2. a On-site consultation - Troy Brown, TVA Landscape Architect, two to three days, soon.

b Resource Materials: horticultural references, videos explaining the process of landscape consultation, tree-pruning, information on carrying out ISTEA grants. These could be available to anyone visiting the GC office.

c Peer exchange

National Identity Activities this quarter: Along with occasional mention in the local newspaper our Americorps cluster was honored in receiving a nomination for President's Choice National Service Award by Henry Booker, Town Manager and Ken Heath, Marion Downtown Revitalization Association Chairman during the Town Council Meeting.

Changes in Program Organization. During the most recent Grassroots Conservancy meeting (3/27) it was announced that Gary Peacock was voted into a leadership role on the board.

Primary Accomplishments:

Prepared three kiosk designs and drew specifications for the one chosen.

Created a series of stencils for imprinting GC logos on sidewalks and supervised their completion.

Met with the Recreation Department and Town Council to speak on behalf on the Tree City USA program.

Presented an appeal for voluntary help to the Marion Intermediate School Science Club and led an exercise in keying twigs of various trees using a key I adapted specifically for the Riverwalk. Supervised the students in staining, sanding and painting of tree identification posts and stencilling of logos on four consecutive Saturdays.

Coordinated tools, materials, donations, people, times and locations for numerous details concerning the Community Forestry Enhancement Project grant. Designed posts and plaques.

Prepared visual aids such as planting plans, laminated photos of Riverwalk and maps.

(1) Riverwalk will provide recreation and wildlife habitat for Marion residents and tourists. It is important that the three segments of the trail be connected. After considering as many aspects of the trail as possible, I have discovered a temporary route as well as a suggested future route. This future route would allow uninterrupted biking throughout a large portion of the trail. Plans for wheel-chair accessibility on portions of each segment have been considered and will be developed further.

2) I consider the experience of working on a group goal (tree identification project) a unique training opportunity. We have striven to obtain a consensus in most decisions and to assign tasks to those individuals most capable in meeting them. This has created a viable and interactive synthesis of talents and personalities of the organism that has come to be known as our cluster.

3) The important outcome of working on the tree identification project is witnessing individuals and different volunteer groups catch interest and commit to various tasks involved with completing the specifics of the grant. I have seen apathy change to curiosity, and curiosity become vision. This is the process by which community involvement grows.

Challenges Encountered: When I began my position I understood there would initially be little supervision. However, I did not expect this situation to last for a period of almost five months. As a result, I was not properly introduced to those people I would be working with, and thus got off to a poor start. Because they were unsure of my capabilities, everything I suggested was excessively questioned and debated to such an extent that little progress could be made. While I realize that not all of my suggestions would be adopted, I feel that an attitude of utter disrespect prevailed throughout the supposedly interactive process of decision-making. My role in this project, as well as who my true supervisors are, was nebulous from the start and remains undefined. I feel that the lack of respect for my position has escalated, damaging my ability to comfortably share ideas with my alleged co-workers.

NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION
SERVICE

1606 SANTA ROSA ROAD

SUITE 209

RICHMOND, VA 23229-5014

FAX

Date: _____

To: _____

Paul Jones

Phone: _____

Fax phone: *202/720-7149*

CC: _____

From: _____

Pax Paul

Phone: _____

804/287-1691

Fax phone: _____

804/287-1737

REMARKS:

☒ Urgent

☐ For your review

☐ Reply ASAP

☐ Please comment

*Quarterly narratives for Keyville
(includes Tappahannock) and for
Wytheville — 2 clusters.*

Pax

AmeriCorps USA
Operating Site Quarterly report

New river Highlands RC&D
USDA National Directive

Operating Site ID 1651268015
Fourth Quarter (7/1-9/30)

Audrey L. A. Biggs, Outreach Coordinator
TW (540) 228-2070 Fax (540) 2284367
110 W. Spiller St. Wytheville, VA

No. of members allotted to your site	5	0
No. of Members enrolled on the last day of the fourth quarter	5	0
No. of members who served the entire fourth quarter	5	0
No. of members who left sites during the fourth quarter	0	0
No. of members who joined sites during the fourth quarter	0	0
Total member service hours during the fourth quarter (NRCS members-2)	800 hrs.	
Total Member service hours to date (NRCS members-2)	3,160	

Please estimate the following:

- a) Total No. of Non-AmeriCorps Volunteers
who are involved in AmeriCorps projects. 50
- b) Total No. of Non-AmeriCorps service activities completed by Non-AmeriCorps
Member Volunteer this fourth quarter 3

Summary of progress this reporting quarter toward accomplishing annual
accomplishments.

The Outreach Coordinator is responsible for communication and committee development within a
11 county area in the Southwest Appalachian region of VA. The Outreach Coordinator will
increase water quality awareness to the public by generating press releases and coordinating media
coverage for Council and Committee activities.

Statement of goals and progress:

The community objectives of the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and
Development (RC&D) Council has required that my AmeriCorps projects identify
necessary improvements in communication and committee development. These
communication improvements have been with community-based organizations and local,
state, federal and other environmental agencies. within the RC&D Area, I have worked on
objectives and strategies to establish a public awareness of water quality concerns
impacting their areas.

The purpose of the Outreach Coordinator is to develop community expansion toward
conservation awareness. As Coordinator, I targeted public officials, community leaders,
committee members as well as the general public to present information that would
increase their conservation awareness and understanding of grassroots efforts in water
quality conservation. To accomplish this, I have published newsletters for local watershed
committees that feature local water quality issues, and highlights actions that are being
initiated to correct any identified concerns. I have also prepared mailing lists and data
bases, and provided training for community volunteers. These actions have increased the
awareness of local, state and federal elected officials of the water quality problems in the
Middle Fork Holston River Area as well as throughout the New River-Highland area. I
also provide for direct committee outreach by setting up and directing press conferences

for local committee activities, assisting in organizational development, arranging for press coverage, preparing press packets and arranging for speakers.

a. Direct Service Objectives:

Committee Development: I have work with 4 grassroots organizations. I have been part of an organizational team interested in increasing conservation awareness. I have provided assistance to develop these committees, as well as coordinated activities to promote them and their measures.

1. As part of my direct service activities this quarter, I worked with grassroots organizations. I have provided assistance in the development of active committees. In order to fulfill this goal, I have delegated duties to members within the committee. These actions were to develop activities that promote the initiatives of each group.
2. I have participated in committee activities that have included 3 activity evaluations with executive groups from the watershed committees with whom I am working.
3. I have completed the final editions of my assigned number of newsletter issues, 7 press releases, 2 brochures with a 150 person circulation. Assisted in the developed of the RC&D Annual report. This publication's has 500 person distribution targets public officials, community leaders, committee members as well as the general public to provide information about the local committees and the conservation activities that they are producing.
4. I am currently developing the Executive members of one watershed committee, I am discussing them in the development of constitutional by-laws that will govern the selection of new members for the committee.
5. I have worked closely with the secretary of one watershed committee to develop an outreach subcommittee. I also assisted in coordinating a Field day to showoff the innovative ways that landowners in Carroll County are improving the water quality in the Little Road Island Creek area.

Public Relations Services: These activities included working with town officials and local agencies to schedule activities. I also created an agenda, assisted in the coordination of transportation, as well as assisted in the coordination and development of displays for local and state agencies that participating in the event. The conservation events helped fulfill components of EPA 319 grant that the local conservation groups are completing.

- Developed 2 press releases for 7 newspapers and statewide agricultural newsletter with an average distribution 6,500 to 10,000.
- Developed Field Day flyer with a distribution of 1000 for the activity.
- Developed 1 brochure for a Field day event distribution of 100.
- Designed and produced 7 conservation displays and 6 signs
- Organized field day activity: This entailed coordinating events and speakers for a conservation demonstration at the Farmers' Market in Hillsville, Virginia. The Tour was conducted as a Multi-sites tour with an evening meal provided for participants. The event featured six (6) demonstration sites in the Carroll County Area detailing

topics on Total Resource Conservation Farm Management, Urban Critical Site Stabilization, and Logging Road Stabilization Management Practices. The event had an estimated attendance of one hundred people, and the media.

- I am coordinating an awards dinner to publicly acknowledge the members and local governmental officers who have worked on the water quality improvement activities in the Middle Fork Holston River area.

Newsletters:

- I have continued to develop and distribute two quarterly newsletters. These newsletters have a 200 to 250 mailing distribution. The mailing list includes local officials, boards of supervisors, and elected officials in addition to the regular committee members and prospects. I have been successful in getting 3 members to contribute articles to their publication.

b. AmeriCorps Member Development:

I participated in the team closing program in Keyville. This program allowed both members and team coordinators to discuss positives and negative situations that occurred during the first year of the AmeriCorps program. It also allowed members from across Virginia to speak about the completion of their programs' objectives and activities.

c. Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

Through my job objectives, I have focused on projects that achieve improvements in communication between local agencies, committees and the larger community. In order to strengthen the community base, I have assisted in projects such as water sampling, and conservation demonstrations. These activities have provided opportunities to show the community how they can learn and achieve water quality improvements through grassroots efforts. These activities provide a unique situation for local government, state and local agencies, as well as members of the community to work together. Though the council and local organization, I provide information about community improvement projects that affect water quality in the area.

Other Accomplishments this Quarter:

- Served as the AmeriCorps Coordinator for a Multi-site Conservation Demonstration this Aug. Arranged local press coverage, Conservation displays.
- Currently assisting in the development of an executive committee for the Middle Fork Holston Committee. As part of their development, the committee is working on by-laws to manage the committee's membership development.
- Designed the RC&D Annual Report for 1995

Unique Successes:

I was particularly successful in planning, arranging, providing information that resulted in both print and visual media coverage for the Middle Fork Holston Watershed Committee. At the Middle Fork Holston Water Sampling trip, the committee received favorable publicity that increased interest in the community and a request from new individuals to join the group. I also developed press packets that assisted in producing visual media

AmeriCorps USA
Operating Site Quarterly report

New river Highlands RC&D
USDA National Directive

Operating Site ID 1651268015
Fourth Quarter (7/1-9/30)

coverage for an innovative conservation techniques' tour on the Greenway Creek tributary of the Holston River.

Primary Challenges:

My challenge this quarter was to balance multiple tasks while preparing to leave this position. Although it has been expected that my position was ending, a level of dependency has been created between each committee and myself. I am working to reduce this by getting members together to work on committee strengthening projects like the development of committee by-laws and encouraging them to work as a team.

National Identity Activities This Quarter:

I was able to use badges and T-shirt to identify self and organization at AmeriCorps assisted events.

Significant Program Changes This Quarter:

I received an extension to work to Sept. 10, 1995.

4 AMERICORPS
QUARTER REPORT

SITE INFORMATION

Operating Site name:

Old Dominion RC+D
Virginia Rails to Trails

State:

VA

Site ID #

95ADFD C047 L25E

Your Name:

Ray Dorsett

Your Position:

Project Manager

Telephone number:

804/736-8403

Fax number:

804/736-0003

e-mail address
(if available)

Date report completed

9/29/95

Reporting Period:

4th quarter 7/30/95-9/30/95

Program Start-up date:

September 1994



MEMBER INFORMATION

FULL-TIME MEMBER INFORMATION

Number of Members authorized for your site:

Environmental Corps Members: _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____

4

Number of Members enrolled at end of quarter:

Environmental Corps Members: _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____

2

Number of Members at beginning of quarter:

Environmental Corps Members: _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____

2

Total Hours of Direct Service for previous Quarter: _____

Environmental Corps Members: _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____

1767

Total Hours of Direct Service for this Quarter: _____

Environmental Corps Members: _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____

Total Hours of Direct Service to Date: _____

Environmental Corps Members: _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____

PART-TIME MEMBER INFORMATION

not applicable

Number of Members authorized:

Environmental Corps Members: _____

Rural Development Corps Members: _____

Number of Members enrolled at end of quarter:

Environmental Corps Members: _____

Rural Development Corps Members: _____

Number of Members at beginning of quarter:

Environmental Corps Members: _____

Rural Development Corps Members: _____

Total Hours of Direct Service for previous Quarter:

Environmental Corps Members: _____

Rural Development Corps Members: _____

Total Hours of Direct Service for this Quarter:

Environmental Corps Members: _____

Rural Development Corps Members: _____

Total Hours of Direct Service to date:

Environmental Corps Members: _____

Rural Development Corps Members: _____



VOLUNTEER ASSESSMENT

Non-AmeriCorps Member Volunteers

**Total Number of non-AmeriCorps Volunteers:
involved in AmeriCorps service activities in
this quarter**

24

**Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities:
completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers
in this quarter.**

60



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES THIS QUARTER

1. Staff changes made this quarter: *None*

1 resignation to take another job in previous quarter
1 resignation to pursue education in previous quarter

2. Program structural changes made this quarter:

None

Number of Members who have left National Service
this quarter.

0

Total-to-date

2

Number of Members who have gained employment thru their
AmeriCorps Service

0

MEMBER ASSESSMENT
as of end of this quarter

TOTAL AUTHORIZED POSITIONS: 4 TOTAL EMPLOYED: 2

TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL CORPS POSITIONS FILLED

TOTAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPS POSITIONS FILLED 2

DEMOGRAPHICS OF AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Box 1 - Gender

Number of Males

Number of Females

TOTAL

1
1
2

Box 2 - Race

Number of Caucasians

Number of African Americans

Number of Native Americans

Number of Hispanics

Number of Asian Americans/Pacific Islander

Other

TOTAL

2

Box 3 - Education

Number w/out High School Diploma or GED

Number with High School or GED

Number with some college

Number with college degree

Number with Graduate degree

Number w/Professional or Trade School

TOTAL

1

2

NOTE: Totals in boxes 1-3 should be the same number and should be the same as TOTAL EMPLOYED.

BOX 4 - Other

Number receiving Health Insurance from NRCS

Number receiving Child Care through AmeriCorps

Number of children

Number w/Disabilities

0

BUDGET INFORMATION

Federal dollars spent on AmeriCorps (Local Level Only)	
Project Manager completes this section	
Per cent of your time spent on AmeriCorps	<u>10-12%</u>
Approximate dollar amount	<u>\$6,500</u>
Cost for any other Federal employees spending time on AmeriCorps	<u>\$500</u>
Travel costs for Members & Managers	<u>\$50</u>
Training costs	<u>0</u>
Supplies	<u>0</u>
Uniform costs	<u>0</u>
Program Costs	<u>0</u>
(Please explain what these costs were.)	

Partner dollars spent on AmeriCorps	<u>None</u>
Supplies	<u> </u>
Travel	<u> </u>
Training	<u> </u>
Program Costs	<u> </u>
Other	<u> </u>

PROJECT DIRECTOR COSTS (One per State - Above site level costs only)
Do NOT include any costs already captured by the Project Manager.

Federal dollars spent on AmeriCorps

Per cent of year time spent on AmeriCorps
Approximate dollar amount

5-10%
\$1000/quarter
\$1000

Cost for any other Federal employee spending
time on AmeriCorps (PAS)

Travel costs for Members & Managers

0

Training costs

0

Supplies

0

Uniform costs

0

Program Costs

0

(Please explain what these costs were.)

Non-Federal Funds Spent
(Explain)

0

Objectives Section

Objective: (state objective) *Rails to Trails. Prepare landscape design to convert 6 miles of abandoned railroad to historical trail and provide educational programs through establishment of a Visitors Center.*
Progress towards meeting this community service objectives

number of people visiting park- as of 8/31/95- 9,550 people
(approximately 4,300 were visitors during the opening week-end dedication and battle re-enactments held in June)

list of cooperating agencies- Historic Staunton River Foundation, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, Virginia Power, United Daughters of Confederacy, United Sons of Confederacy, Virginia Historical Society, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Old Dominion RC&D, and Virginia Museum of Natural History (Martinsville). There are also at least fifteen individuals and organizations that have donated items for exhibition in the visitor center to date with additional items being offered as more people see and become interested in this project

projected revenue- \$ 78,000 annually from visitors
(estimate 650 visitors/month spending \$10 per visit in the local community for food, goods and services)

- \$ 36,000 in added annual payroll to the community from new jobs this project has created just within the park
- \$ 275,000 in contracts were awarded to local contractors and building supply vendors for construction of the museum/visitor center
- \$ 60,000 in contracts to be let for bid in construction of a park supervisor house on the site in 1996
- \$ 500,000 in a new ISTEA grant awarded in July 1995 to expand and enhance the park facilities
(these figures do not reflect the obligations of the original grant of \$750,00 for construction of bridges, railroad bed conversion to a greenway trail, improvements to the earthworks and interpretative work with signage)

environmental/cultural benefits- development of historical and environmental exhibits for the general public and schools; 40 acres of mitigated wetlands were installed and 415 acres have been set aside in a conservation easement adjoining the park; archeological research is planned relating to the civil war and on an identified cemetery suspected to be slaves (these will be interpreted for park visitors)

There is a sign listing all contributors to the project including Old Dominion RC&D. It is an 8" x 10" wall sign hung on the end of the display counter behind the gift shop counter and beside the interpretive map of the battle.

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1. Member Development:** Progress made in boosting the personal development of members.

Photography training resulted in immediate improvement of visuals for presentation and display. Approximately 8 hours of hands-on training provided to two members.

- 2. Community Building:** Progress made in meeting your community service objectives.

AmeriCorps USA
Operating Site Quarterly report

New river Highlands RC&D
USDA National Directive

Operating Site ID 1651268015
Fourth Quarter (7/1-9/30)

Audrey L. A. Biggs, Outreach Coordinator
T# (540) 228-2870 Fax (540) 2284367
110 W. Spiller St. Wytheville, VA

No. of members allotted to your site	5	0
No. of Members enrolled on the last day of the fourth quarter	5	0
No. of members who served the entire fourth quarter	5	0
No. of members who left sites during the fourth quarter	0	0
No. of members who joined sites during the fourth quarter	0	0
Total member service hours during the fourth quarter (NRCS members-2)	800 hrs.	
Total Member service hours to date (NRCS members-2)	3,160	

Please estimate the following:

- a) Total No. of Non-AmeriCorps Volunteers
who are involved in AmeriCorps projects. 50
- b) Total No. of Non-AmeriCorps service activities completed by Non-AmeriCorps
Member Volunteer this fourth quarter 3

Summary of progress this reporting quarter toward accomplishing annual
accomplishments.

The Outreach Coordinator is responsible for communication and committee development within a
11 county area in the Southwest Appalachian region of VA. The Outreach Coordinator will
increase water quality awareness to the public by generating press releases and coordinating media
coverage for Council and Committee activities.

Statement of goals and progress:

The community objectives of the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and
Development (RC&D) Council has required that my AmeriCorps projects identify
necessary improvements in communication and committee development. These
communication improvements have been with community-based organizations and local,
state, federal and other environmental agencies. within the RC&D Area, I have worked on
objectives and strategies to establish a public awareness of water quality concerns
impacting their areas.

The purpose of the Outreach Coordinator is to develop community expansion toward
conservation awareness. As Coordinator, I targeted public officials, community leaders,
committee members as well as the general public to present information that would
increase their conservation awareness and understanding of grassroots efforts in water
quality conservation. To accomplish this, I have published newsletters for local watershed
committees that feature local water quality issues, and highlights actions that are being
initiated to correct any identified concerns. I have also prepared mailing lists and data
bases, and provided training for community volunteers. These actions have increased the
awareness of local, state and federal elected officials of the water quality problems in the
Middle Fork Holston River Area as well as throughout the New River-Highland area. I
also provide for direct committee outreach by setting up and directing press conferences

AmeriCorps USA
Operating Site Quarterly report

New river Highlands RC&D
USDA National Directive

Operating Site ID 1651268015
Fourth Quarter (7/1-9/30)

for local committee activities, assisting in organizational development, arranging for press coverage, preparing press packets and arranging for speakers.

a. Direct Service Objectives:

Committee Development: I have work with 4 grassroots organizations. I have been part of an organizational team interested in increasing conservation awareness. I have provided assistance to develop these committees, as well as coordinated activities to promote them and their measures.

1. As part of my direct service activities this quarter, I worked with grassroots organizations. I have provided assistance in the development of active committees. In order to fulfill this goal, I have delegated duties to members within the committee. These actions were to develop activities that promote the initiatives of each group.
2. I have participated in committee activities that have included 3 activity evaluations with executive groups from the watershed committees with whom I am working.
3. I have completed the final editions of my assigned number of newsletter issues, 7 press releases, 2 brochures with a 150 person circulation. Assisted in the developed of the RC&D Annual report. This publication's has 500 person distribution targets public officials, community leaders, committee members as well as the general public to provide information about the local committees and the conservation activities that they are producing.
4. I am currently developing the Executive members of one watershed committee, I am discussing them in the development of constitutional by-laws that will govern the selection of new members for the committee.
5. I have worked closely with the secretary of one watershed committee to develop an outreach subcommittee. I also assisted in coordinating a Field day to showoff the innovative ways that landowners in Carroll County are improving the water quality in the Little Reed Island Creek area.

Public Relations Services: These activities included working with town officials and local agencies to schedule activities. I also created an agenda, assisted in the coordination of transportation, as well as assisted in the coordination and development of displays for local and state agencies that participating in the event. The conservation events helped fulfill components of EPA 319 grant that the local conservation groups are completing.

- Developed 2 press releases for 7 newspapers and statewide agricultural newsletter with an average distribution 6,500 to 10,000.
- Developed Field Day flyer with a distribution of 1000 for the activity.
- Developed 1 brochure for a Field day event distribution of 100.
- Designed and produced 7 conservation displays and 6 signs
- Organized field day activity: This entailed coordinating events and speakers for a conservation demonstration at the Farmers' Market in Hillsville, Virginia. The Tour was conducted as a Multi-site tour with an evening meal provided for participants. The event featured six (6) demonstration sites in the Carroll County Area detailing

AmeriCorps USA
Operating Site Quarterly report

New river Highlands RC&D
USDA National Directive

Operating Site ID 1651268015
Fourth Quarter (7/1-9/30)

topics on Total Resource Conservation Farm Management, Urban Critical Site Stabilization, and Logging Road Stabilization Management Practices. The event had an estimated attendance of one hundred people, and the media.

- I am coordinating an awards dinner to publicly acknowledge the members and local governmental officers who have worked on the water quality improvement activities in the Middle Fork Holston River area.

Newsletters:

- I have continued to develop and distribute two quarterly newsletters. These newsletters have a 200 to 250 mailing distribution. The mailing list includes local officials, boards of supervisors, and elected officials in addition to the regular committee members and prospects. I have been successful in getting 3 members to contribute articles to their publication.

b. AmeriCorps Member Development:

I participated in the team closing program in Keysville. This program allowed both members and team coordinators to discuss positives and negative situations that occurred during the first year of the AmeriCorps program. It also allowed members from across Virginia to speak about the completion of their programs' objectives and activities.

c. Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

Through my job objectives, I have focused on projects that achieve improvements in communication between local agencies, committees and the larger community. In order to strengthen the community base, I have assisted in projects such as water sampling, and conservation demonstrations. These activities have provided opportunities to show the community how they can learn and achieve water quality improvements through grassroots efforts. These activities provide a unique situation for local government, state and local agencies, as well as members of the community to work together. Though the council and local organization, I provide information about community improvement projects that affect water quality in the area.

Other Accomplishments this Quarter:

- Served as the AmeriCorps Coordinator for a Multi-site Conservation Demonstration this Aug. Arranged local press coverage, Conservation displays.
- Currently assisting in the development of an executive committee for the Middle Fork Holston Committee. As part of their development, the committee is working on by-laws to manage the committee's membership development.
- Designed the RC&D Annual Report for 1995

Unique Successes:

I was particularly successful in planning, arranging, providing information that resulted in both print and visual media coverage for the Middle Fork Holston Watershed Committee. At the Middle Fork Holston Water Sampling trip, the committee received favorable publicity that increased interest in the community and a request from new individuals to join the group. I also developed press packets that assisted in producing visual media

AmeriCorps USA
Operating Site Quarterly report

New river Highlands RC&D
USDA National Directive

Operating Site ID 1651268015
Fourth Quarter (7/1-9/30)

coverage for an innovative conservation techniques' tour on the Greenway Creek tributary of the Potomac River.

Primary Challenges:

My challenge this quarter was to balance multiple tasks while preparing to leave this position. Although it has been expected that my position was ending, a level of dependency has been created between each committee and myself. I am working to reduce this by getting members together to work on committee strengthening projects like the development of committee by-laws and encouraging them to work as a team.

National Identity Activities This Quarter:

I was able to use badges and T-shirt to identify self and organization at AmeriCorps assisted events.

Significant Program Changes This Quarter:

I received an extension to work to Sept. 10, 1995.



4 AMERICORPS
QUARTER REPORT

SITE INFORMATION

Operating Site name:

Old Dominion RC+D
Virginia Rails to Trails

State:

VA

Site ID #

95ADFD047 L25E

Your Name:

Ray Dorsett

Your Position:

Project Manager

Telephone number:

804/736-8403

Fax number:

804/736-0003e-mail address
(if available)

Date report completed

9/29/95

Reporting Period:

4th quarter 7/30/95 - 9/30/95

Program Start-up date:

September 1994

**MEMBER INFORMATION****FULL-TIME MEMBER INFORMATION**

Number of Members authorized for your site:

Environmental Corps Members:

Rural Development Corps Members:

4

Number of Members enrolled at end of quarter:

Environmental Corps Members:

Rural Development Corps Members:

2

Number of Members at beginning of quarter:

Environmental Corps Members:

Rural Development Corps Members:

2

Total Hours of Direct Service for previous Quarter:

Environmental Corps Members:

Rural Development Corps Members:

1767

Total Hours of Direct Service for this Quarter:

Environmental Corps Members:

Rural Development Corps Members:

Total Hours of Direct Service to Date:

Environmental Corps Members:

Rural Development Corps Members:

**PART-TIME MEMBER INFORMATION***not applicable***Number of Members authorized:****Environmental Corps Members:** _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____**Number of Members enrolled at end of quarter:****Environmental Corps Members:** _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____**Number of Members at beginning of quarter:****Environmental Corps Members:** _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____**Total Hours of Direct Service for previous Quarter:****Environmental Corps Members:** _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____**Total Hours of Direct Service for this Quarter:****Environmental Corps Members:** _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____**Total Hours of Direct Service to date:****Environmental Corps Members:** _____
Rural Development Corps Members: _____

**VOLUNTEER ASSESSMENT****Non-AmeriCorps Member Volunteers**

Total Number of non-AmeriCorps Volunteers:
involved in AmeriCorps service activities in
this quarter

24

Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities:
completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers
in this quarter.

60

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES THIS QUARTER**

1. Staff changes made this quarter: *None*

1 resignation to take another job in previous quarter
1 resignation to pursue education in previous quarter

2. Program structural changes made this quarter:

None

Number of Members who have left National Service
this quarter.

0

Total-to-date

2

Number of Members who have gained employment thru their
AmeriCorps Service

0



MEMBER ASSESSMENT
as of end of this quarter

TOTAL AUTHORIZED POSITIONS: 4 TOTAL EMPLOYED: 2

TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL CORPS POSITIONS FILLED

TOTAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPS POSITIONS FILLED 2

DEMOGRAPHICS OF AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Box 1 - Gender

Number of Males 1

Number of Females 1

TOTAL 2

Box 2 - Race

Number of Caucasians 2

Number of African Americans

Number of Native Americans

Number of Hispanics

Number of Asian Americans/Pacific Islander

Other

TOTAL 2

Box 3 - Education

Number w/out High School Diploma or GED

Number with High School or GED

Number with some college

Number with college degree 1

Number with Graduate degree 1

Number w/Professional or Trade School

TOTAL 2

NOTE: Totals in boxes 1-3 should be the same number and should be the same as TOTAL EMPLOYED.

Box 4 - Other

Number receiving Health Insurance from NRCS 0

Number receiving Child Care through AmeriCorps

Number of children

Number w/Disabilities



BUDGET INFORMATION

Federal dollars spent on AmeriCorps (Local Level Only)
Project Manager completes this section

Per cent of your time spent on AmeriCorps
 Approximate dollar amount

10-12%
\$6,500

Cost for any other Federal employee spending
 time on AmeriCorps

\$500

Travel costs for Members & Managers

\$50

Training costs

0

Supplies

0

Uniform costs

0

Program Costs
 (Please explain what these costs were.)

0

Partner dollars spent on AmeriCorps

None

Supplies

Travel

Training

Program Costs

Other



PROJECT DIRECTOR COSTS (One per State - Above site level costs only)
Do NOT include any costs already captured by the Project Manager.

Federal dollars spent on AmeriCorps

Per cent of year time spent on AmeriCorps
Approximate dollar amount

5-10%
\$1000/quarter
\$1000

Cost for any other Federal employee spending
time on AmeriCorps (PAS)

Travel costs for Members & Managers

0

Training costs

0

Supplies

0

Uniform costs

0

Program Costs

0

(Please explain what these costs were.)

Non-Federal Funds Spent
(Explain)

0



Objectives Section

Objective: (state objective) *Rails to Trails. Prepare landscape design to convert 6 miles of abandoned railroad to historical trail and provide educational programs through establishment of a Visitor's Center.*
Progress towards meeting this community service objectives

number of people visiting park- as of 8/31/95- 9,550 people
(approximately 4,300 were visitors during the opening week-end dedication and battle re-enactments held in June)

list of cooperating agencies- Historic Staunton River Foundation, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, Virginia Power, United Daughters of Confederacy, United Sons of Confederacy, Virginia Historical Society, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Old Dominion RC&D, and Virginia Museum of Natural History (Martinsville). There are also at least fifteen individuals and organizations that have donated items for exhibition in the visitor center to date with additional items being offered as more people see and become interested in this project

projected revenue- \$ 78,000 annually from visitors
(estimate 650 visitors/month spending \$10 per visit in the local community for food, goods and services)

- \$ 36,000 in added annual payroll to the community from new jobs this project has created just within the park
- \$ 275,000 in contracts were awarded to local contractors and building supply vendors for construction of the museum/visitor center
- \$ 60,000 in contracts to be let for bid in construction of a park supervisor house on the site in 1996
- \$ 500,000 in a new ISTEA grant awarded in July 1995 to expand and enhance the park facilities

(these figures do not reflect the obligations of the original grant of \$750,00 for construction of bridges, railroad bed conversion to a greenway trail, improvements to the earthworks and interpretative work with signage)

environmental/cultural benefits- development of historical and environmental exhibits for the general public and schools; 40 acres of mitigated wetlands were installed and 415 acres have been set aside in a conservation easement adjoining the park; archeological research is planned relating to the civil war and on an identified cemetery suspected to be slaves (these will be interpreted for park visitors)

There is a sign listing all contributors to the project including Old Dominion RC&D. It is an 8" x 10" wall sign hung on the end of the display counter behind the gift shop counter and beside the interpretative map of the battle.

**PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. **Member Development:** Progress made in boosting the personal development of members.

Photography training resulted in immediate improvement of visuals for presentation and display. Approximately 8 hours of hands-on training provided to two members.

2. **Community Building:** Progress made in meeting your community service objectives.

	FULL TIME	PART TIME
No. of Members allotted to your sites	3	0
No. of Members enrolled on last day of 3rd Qtr.	3	0
No. of Members who served entire 3rd Qtr.	3	0
No. of Members who left sites during the 3rd Qtr.	0	0
No. of Members who joined sites during 3rd Qtr.	0	0
Total Members service hours during the 3rd Qtr.		
Total Members service hours to date	1,604	0

11. Please provide estimates of the following:

(a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in the AmeriCorps service activities this quarter: 32

(b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers this quarter: 236

Adrienne D. Perkins
Forest Economic Specialist

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

In each section below, briefly restate your objectives and describe relevant evaluation data. Note evaluation activities in which you have engaged.

(a) Direct Service Objectives:

"Getting Things Done," Community Service, Responsibility, and Opportunity. These are the goals of the AmeriCorps projects. We are all working hard to achieve each one.

We have printed and presented 40 tree identification plaques, 265 Riverwalk Tree Identification Guide Books, and 1,200 Riverwalk brochures. We painted, routed, cut, and installed the 40 posts on which the plaques were installed. We held a Riverwalk Tree Identification Laboratory Field Day which was attended by approximately 50 people. We held two teacher training sessions attended by approximately 30 teachers each. My newsletter was sent to 460 wood industry people in four states. I have collected approximately 5 hours of video footage for various projects. I constructed three informational displays, and delivered two presentations.

We have provided the school system and community an educational outdoor laboratory and exercise trail, as well as a new tourist attraction. The newsletter spreads the word about AmeriCorps projects, forest fire safety, logger education, lower business operating costs, new federal regulations, and much more. The timber bridge assembly video will show farm owners and loggers the way to build their own bridge so they can eliminate erosion and due to stream crossing. Presentations to economic development boards and industrial development authorities will remind them to consider the forest industry in their plans, maintaining and increasing income.

The responsibility for the upkeep and expansion of the tree identification lab is now on the community for which it was designed. The Forestry Committee will be responsible for the continuation of the newsletter when my appointment reaches its end. Southwest Virginia now has a new tool - timber bridges - to meet the responsibility of clean water and the use of its renewable hardwood resource. Economic development boards and industrial development authorities will be responsible for making sure that the county's economic development policies are conducive to the continuation and expansion of the forest industry.

The opportunity exists for the expansion of the Riverwalk. Lighting could be added, the trail could be made accessible for people with disabilities, straightened and leveled, and extended to join the existing Hungry Mother State Park Trail. The newsletter could be continued to maintain the information

dissemination. A timber bridge industry could be developed in Southwest Virginia that would provide a market for under-used, but bountiful, hardwood. Economic development boards could be encouraged so much that they specifically target the expansion of secondary processors as their county's goal.

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

I have attended several training sessions, including photography and developing effective presentations. Much of the experience I am gaining through my AmeriCorps Service is extremely valuable in that it prepares me for future job opportunities in my career field. These training sessions also work toward our goal of 20% training hours.

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

We have encouraged community involvement in the tree identification project and worked with volunteers from the community. These volunteers include members of the Grassroots Conservancy and the Marion Intermediate School Science Club.

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 source of delay, program elements not meeting expectations, events or incidents that caused concern.)

a.) Destruction due to Vandalism: Many of the tree identification plaques that we had just installed at the end of April were destroyed. The TWO pieces of plexiglass and the plaque itself were all ripped off the post and left in pieces on the ground all over the trail. They have not yet been replaced.

The Town of Marion has offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the destruction, but nothing has turned up as of June 30, 1995. The trail is not lighted. We are told that Police patrols are supposed to increase.

b.) Training Budget: I asked about this in the second quarterly report, and still I have not seen a copy of the training budget.

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; training Members in national skill areas (communications/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.)

Newsletter Article: I placed an article in "The Forest Resource Circle, a New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Forestry Committee Newsletter," (which was mailed to over 400 people) detailing the work on the Marion Riverwalk Tree Identification Laboratory by the AmeriCorps members (in Wytheville and Marion, Virginia).

Participation in National Service Projects: While in Atlanta, Georgia, we helped paint the interior and exterior of a homeless shelter building.

Training: I participated in a photography training session in Wytheville, VA. We trained teachers in the use of the tree lab.

AmeriCorps Leader Nomination: I was nominated for the AmeriCorps Leader program for next year.

Displays at the Appalachian Hardwood Expo: I constructed two displays that were set-up at the Appalachian Hardwood Expo, which is a trade show for the hardwood industry. One display showed the assembly of a timber bridge (which was the project of an AmeriCorps Member) and the other included information about several projects which are the responsibility of AmeriCorps Members. Also in our booth was the dry fire hydrant display for the state of Virginia. Several people asked about the purpose of AmeriCorps and what our Members have accomplished. The show was attended by people from all over the United States as well as Canada.

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

None.

T/TA REQUEST

1. Please briefly describe your need for T/TA. (What is the problem you are addressing? When do you need T/TA delivered?)

I have been video taping several events and activities. I need to visit a facility with the capability of editing 3/4" tape. This will be very useful in the creation of a timber bridge assembly video, as well as providing well edited video of other events.

Delton Alderman #12
NATIONAL IDENTITY ACTIVITIES

The Marion Riverwalk-Tree Identification Field Day gave participants an on hands example of the work we accomplished for the area. The meeting was attended by area residents, school and elected officials, and invited dignitaries.

The Timber Bridge Demonstration allowed also participants to view the work of AmeriCorps.

AMERICORPS MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The bridge demonstration enhanced my knowledge of bridge construction and design greatly. It allowed me to gain knowledge that can not be acquired by reading or over the phone. I now feel confident on how to design, fabricate, and construct a stress-laminated timber bridge.

The effective presentations course I attended was the best training I have received on public relations. The knowledge and training received will benefit me through the rest of my life.