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This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

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**Milwaukee Community Service Corps/hunger Task Force Of
Milwaukee
USDA/ AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Project
The Milwaukee Community Service Corps
Second Quarter Report
January 1st to March 31st 1995**

On what date did AmeriCorps begin service or training?

First enrollment was done on September 12, 1994 Second enrollment was done on December 20, 1994. Last enrollment was done on February 20, 1995

- A) 31 full time Corps members
0 part-time Corps members

13 males / 19 females
12 African -American males
7 African -American females
2 Hispanic females
5 Hispanic Males
4 white females
2 White males

20 working on GED and HSED
7 high school graduates
4 with some college

- B) 13,392 total hours gathered for entire crew.

Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities:

Fifteen people have involved themselves from outside of AmeriCorps
The Milwaukee Community Service Corps has been able to garner a tremendous amount of support for the USDA\AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger program. These individuals have given their valuable time to the project:

Katherine Rogers and **Sharon Kasner** from EFNEP UW-Extension
May Demps, Executive Director, Women Against Drug Abuse
Jeff McAlister, Policy Director from Work For Wisconsin
Will Allen, from Rainbow Farmers Coop
Maria and **Donna Borkin** from the Hunger Task Force Milwaukee
Carol Brill and **Billie Nash** from Hunger Task Force Milwaukee
The Milwaukee AIDS Project
Denis Lukaszewski from Shoots and Roots University of Extension.
Diane Moreau-Stodola, R.D., M.S., Department of Health and social services
Lisa Stark, M. S., R. D. Department of Health and social services

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	7/10	# of pages	▶
To	Donna Hines	From	Daniel Taylor		
Co./Dept.		Co.	MCSC		
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Fax #	202 720-4614	Fax #	414 276-7330		

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The total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: 63 hours.

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER

Infrastructure Construction

- 15 enhancement plans have been created for the Emergency Pantry Network and the goal calls for 30 so we are halfway through.
- The crew has serviced 410 pantries, since January 1-March 31st, by providing assistance with food pick-ups and deliveries, record keeping, cleaning, client intake at the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee warehouse.
- Four Pantries have been rehabed: Fredians, St. Johns, St James, Antioch Baptist Church, the goal is to complete 15.

Food Handling

- Worked with the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee to provide transportation for the 19 participants of the Super pantry. This is a self-sufficient and empowerment program. The participants spend 5 hours, once per week, for 10 weeks preparing themselves to be more self sufficient.
- The Corps members to date have worked in 17 different food pantries assisting with sorting and packaging of food, maintenance of the pantries food pick-ups and deliveries record keeping, office work and client intake.
- There are 10 members who are permanently placed in two pantries providing direct services to the pantry's clients.

Right Alternative (2) ,BayView Community Center,(2) Council for the Spanish Speaking (2) and Hunger Task Force Warehouse (4)

- Members have completed 12 hours of training in the Extension Food Nutrition Education Program.

Community Outreach and Access

- The members were able to get out 40,000 pieces of information concerning Earned Income Tax Credit. The information was provided in both Spanish and English.
- 12 group presentations were delivered on Earned Income Tax Credit by the members.
- The School Breakfast program required the members to create a skit and to perform it throughout Milwaukee's Public schools. The members have performed the skit once with plans to do more work during the end of the summer.
- 60 hours have been put in at the SHARE program, which is an organization that takes over where food pantries leave off. The AmeriCorps members provide extra support at the end of each month to the organization in order to make sure as many people as possible don't go hungry.

Goal

To provide affordable fresh produce in targeted neighborhoods where emergency food programs are located by linking the food pantries, farmers and neighborhood associations. The AmeriCorps crew will establish the link and assist in the marking and promotion of the farmers markets in these targeted neighborhoods. In addition, corpsmembers would organize and provide 12 on-site market demonstration of nutritious foods and the proper preparation and storage of market produce.

What work will be done?

Bring together farmers cooperatives, neighborhood associations and emergency food pantries around 2 farmers markets. Improve the physical set up and signage of the markets. Establish community gardens in targeted neighborhoods. Provide marketing assistance including but not limited to the distribution of at least three informational flyers to at least six markets about proper preparation and storage of the market items.

What activities will your participants engage in?

- By working in collaboration with the Rainbow Farmers Cooperative
- The physical set up of markets development of signage for the markets installed.
- Working with community organizations and groups operating the markets
- And will jointly develop and implement on outreach and promotion campaign for the markets.
- working cooperatively with four existing neighborhood farmers markets
- Providing at least three informational flyers at least six markets about the proper preparation and storage of the market items

What work has been done?

- Established commitments with farmers market cooperative and Fondy Market and 4 other unnamed sites to rejuvenate summer farmers markets.
- Working with UW-Extension on the urban gardens to provide free food to the emergency shelters and working on a commitment to get the farmers to donate a portion of food to emergency pantries.

What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

The number of market customers will increase by 50% from the beginning to the end of the season. The community will have the correct information about food storage. A portion of the produce will be sold at the neighborhood farmers market. Two specialty items will be grown to meet the special produce needs of the ethnic and /or racial groups located in the neighborhoods of the gardens.

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

A random survey of 25% of the markets customers and farmers will be conducted to determine the impact of the markets on the neighborhoods residents and the farmers coop and the community.

How many individuals will receive the benefits of the work your participants perform?

The central city neighborhoods targeted have over 40,000 individuals in them

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES?

feeling starting to emerge from the members. She feels this comes from having one goal, to get the work done and to gather as much knowledge as possible in order to share with the community.

EDUCATION

Since the program started in September of 1994 four members have received their high school diplomas and are beginning the process of enrolling into college for the fall. Jeff Kholweiss is finishing an associate degree program, at MATC, where he is currently attending evening classes. Gena Krosting has completed two years of college and is going back for her BS. Aminah Ahmed is a high school graduate preparing for the SAT exam. Mittie Rainey is a high school graduate with a VTEA certificate in banking. Ronda Evens is a high school graduate preparing for the SAT and ACT. Adrian Luna is a high school graduate, who is preparing for entry into a carpentry apprenticeship program in the fall. Leslie Snyder is a college student and well on her way to graduating. The experience of being a part of the MCSC AmeriCorps/USDA anti-hunger project has fostered in some of the members hope and in some cases, that is what is really needed for anyone to accomplish a goal. Not only have the members begun preparing for their futures they have begun participating on their own accord not only in community service as part of the program but in extra training's provided to them by the Milwaukee Community Service Corps and the Hunger Task Force Of Milwaukee.

Summary of progress this reporting quarter towards accomplishing annual objectives

DIRECT SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Goal 1.

To develop a facility enhancement plan for a minimum of thirty emergency food pantries. Of the 30, 15 will have their physical facilities improved by the corpsmembers.

Fifteen enhancement plans have been created for the Emergency Pantry Network and the goal calls for 30 so we are halfway through. As of the end of this quarter four Pantries have been rehabilitated: Fredians, St. Johns, St James, Antioch Baptist Church, the goal is to complete 15. With the improved weather coming up we anticipated completing 5 more for the third quarter.

After surveying over 105 pantries in Milwaukee County, seventeen requested help. Of the seventeen requesting help evaluation were completed on what needed to be done at each site. After work is completed at each of the sights, those that run the pantries will fill out a work evaluation to measure the competency of the work completed. In the past MCSC has had an excellent rating of 90% of the rahab work completed. Of the four we have completed we have received 96% excellent rating.

MCSC and AmeriCorps prides itself on getting things done and done well. We strive for 100% excellent rating on all our projects.

Each pantry estimates they serve any where between 500 - 1000 people per month. If MCSC and AmeriCorps can improve the pantries at 15 we will be helping 7,500 and 15,000 individuals. The four that are already completed will help between 2000 and 4000.

Food Handling

GOAL

To increase the capacity of Hunger Task Force Milwaukee to collect, sort, inventory and distribute 1,000,000 pounds of donated and purchased food on a city-wide basis to pantries.

Crew has worked with the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee to provide transportation for the 19 participants of the Super pantry. This is a self-sufficient and empowerment program. The participants spend 5 hours, once per week, for 10 weeks preparing themselves to be more self sufficient.

The corpsmembers to date have worked in 17 different food pantries assisting with sorting and packaging of food, maintenance of the pantries food pick-ups and deliveries record keeping, office work and client intake.

There are 10 members who are permanently placed in two pantries providing direct services to the pantry's clients: Right Alternative Center(2), Bayview Community Center,(2) Council for the Spanish Speaking (2) and Hunger Task Force's warehouse (4)

- Members have completed 12 hours of training in the Extension Food Nutrition Education Program.
- The crew has serviced 410 pantries, since January 1-March 31st, by providing assistance with food pick-ups and deliveries, record keeping, cleaning, client intake at the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee warehouse.

COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

Goal

To support the annual spring city-wide neighborhood clean-up project all crews would come together to work in collaboration with block clubs, city health and sanitation departments, schools and neighborhood organizations.

What work has been completed

Currently, the planning for this event is in its final stages. The organizations that are participating in a loose coalition are MCSC, YMCA, YWCA, the Milwaukee Christian Center, the Volunteer Center Milwaukee Public Schools and the City of Milwaukee. The work to be completed will take place on National Youth Service Day, April 25, 1995. T-Shirts are being printed with all the appropriate logos for all the children taking part in the clean up.

What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Not only will the neighborhoods be cleaner, there will be residents, organizations and City workers will have an opportunity to work together in the spirit of community. Hopefully an increased neighborhood identity with the city workers will be established.

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

The work completed will be evaluated by project organizers in the targeted neighborhoods through interviews and a written report.

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

Goal

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What work will be done?

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What activities will your participants engage in?

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What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

The number of market customers will increase by 50% from the beginning to the end of the season. The community will have the correct information about food storage. A portion of the produce will be sold at the neighborhood farmers market. Two specialty items will be grown to meet the special produce needs of the ethnic and/or racial groups located in the neighborhoods of the gardens.

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MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES?

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Objective: To increase education (e.g. GED classes for corpsmembers) and mastery of job related skills, use of equipment such as tools and machinery.

All members that come to MCSC will leave with GED, HSED or improve reading and math at least two grades. Also, after six months all members will have past skill test for tools and at least on piece of heavy machinery.

To facilitate this they will take state GED or HSED; and must take a TABE test for pre and post corps evaluation. Furthermore, corpsmembers will take tests modeled on the Public/Private Ventures, Corpsmember Learning Activity (CLA) guide which helps youth corps educators convey the importance of an education and its connection to the world of work. The Work Project staff developed work-based learning materials for the classroom. MCSC Education staff has also developed the corresponding tests for mastery of each of the following subjects: Power Tools, Fasteners and Adhesives, Worksite Safety, Wood/Lumber, Measurement, Knowing the Contents of Your Tool Box, Communication: write a letter to a company, Analysis: demonstrate ability to read and understand maps; Problem Solving: use formulas to determine circumference, area, and volume; Community Responsibility: define racism and its effect on society, Social Interaction: Discuss the value of community service, Ability to recognize and properly use standard hand and power tools, Employability : Produce a personal résumé.

By the end of six months corpsmembers must improve reading and math levels by two grades, based on pre and post TABE tests. Or, after nine months 80% corpsmembers that do not have GED or HSED will have received it from the state. Furthermore after six months 100 % of corpsmembers will understand how to use all the tools in their tool box and at least on piece of specialty equipment.

Since the program started in September of 1994 four members have received their high school diplomas and are beginning the process of enrolling into college for the fall. Jeff Kholweiss is finishing an associate degree program, at MATC, where he is currently attending evening classes. Gena Krosting has completed two years of college and is going back for her BS. Aminah Ahmed is a high school graduate preparing for the SAT exam. Mittie Rainey is a high school graduate with a VTBA certificate in banking. Ronda Evens is a high school graduate preparing for the SAT and ACT. Adrian Luna is a high school graduate, who is preparing for entry into a carpentry apprenticeship program in the fall. Leslie Snyder is a college student and well on her way to graduating.

Objective : Community service work and life skills will be fostered to instill democratic values with the outcome of the ability to identify, operationalize and reflect about the responsibilities of an active citizen.

Hopefully, a pattern of voting, the participation in grassroots neighborhood development committees, participation in in-house leadership training and the innovation of a corpsmembers council will be developed.

Corpsmembers will be encouraged to vote and discuss the election they participated in and provide proof of extra volunteer hours that will be recorded and added to ongoing total of national service hours necessary for the educational award.

Corpsmembers have been registered to vote and many have exercised that right. The experience of being a part of the MCSC AmeriCorps/USDA anti-hunger project has fostered in some of the members hope and in some cases, that is what is really needed for anyone to accomplish a goal. Not only have the members begun preparing for their

futures they have begun participating on their own accord not only in community service as part of the program but in extra activities provided to them by the Milwaukee Community Service Corps and the Hunger Task Force Of Milwaukee.

Objective: Move exiting corpsmembers into employment at a living wage or into higher education.

MCSC strives for all of members who stay the duration of the program to leave with a full-time job at a living wage or be enrolled in secondary education.

Follow up interviews and job placement assistance will be necessary to track the success.

If 90% of corpsmembers who stay in the program for the duration are in school or making a living wage we will view it as a success.

Primary Challenges

- The large turnover we encountered in January. Due to the nature of the MCSC and that fact that this is basically the first job for most of the AmeriCorps members we were faced with dealing with issues such as tardiness to work not prepared for work no call no shows, unwillingness to work, unwillingness to take direction. The MCSC has taken steps to help alleviate the problem by having the social worker who is on staff deal with more of the issues that face Corps members and helping to provide better solutions.
- Providing assistance to our Corps members in matters of non-work issues. i.e. pregnancies, alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence. we have seen some improvements because of the intervention with the corps members.
- The company who printed the brochures for the Earned Income Tax Credit held up the process of distributing the brochures to the residents of the city.
- Not having enough time to train the members adequately or work with the supervisors. We have been taking out more time to spend working on making sure that training is provided for the supervisors and the corps members. This was a perfect opportunity to bring in some other volunteers to actually do the training.
- The members developed a skit that would help advertise the importance of School breakfast program. Unfortunately school administrators have not been willing to let the corpsmembers into the schools to perform the skit. They continue to give them dates then change the dates. This has caused a lot of frustration for the crew but they have now learned how to deal with the bureaucracy of governmental agencies.

National identity activities this quarter

- WTMJ, Channel 4 the NBC affiliate, recruited the services of the AmeriCorps members to work at their completely Kids Fair March 25th & 26th. They estimated at least, if not more, 25,000 people were in attendance and they took in over 23,500 pounds of food. This food was then donated to the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee which was then distributed to the 105 pantries and meal programs throughout the city of Milwaukee.
- WTMJ, Channel 4 also covered the induction ceremony that took place on the floor of Milwaukee's Common Council. Alderman Marvin Pratt administered the AmeriCorps

oath to the new members on Feb. 20. The television cameras then when out to another AmeriCorps sight (State Funded through MCSC) to due interview with corpmembers.

- The members have all been trained in CPR
- A partnership was developed with MAP Milwaukee AIDS Project. The members of MAP did a presentation on HIV and the impact it is on the African/ Hispanic population
- Recognition from the Mayors office for our four members who saved nine children from a burning building. (date for presentation still to be decided)
Beauty Wadlington, Tyrone Johnson, Vonnie Thomas, Mauritz Prado
- Graduation ceremony from Extension Food Nutrition Education Program Tuesday, April 11, 1995

Other Creative documentation

- Photos of the Completely Kids Fair
- Excerpts from Gerald Ball and Jason Morgan's Journals
- Letters of commendation from Bayview Community Center,
- Letter from a partner Work for Wisconsin

Changes in program organization or key staff positions during this quarter

- One of our supervisors went on maternity leave and will not return until September.
- New supervisor was brought on to supervise the Food Handling crew

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AMERICORPS/USDA QUARTERLY REPORT
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE - WISCONSIN
DECEMBER 1 - MARCH 31, 1995

1. Number of employees enrolled at time of launch? 7
2. Number of employees enrolled at end of quarter? 6
3. Number of members terminated from the program? 0
4. Total hours of direct service performed? 3,887
5. Total hours in training? 288
6. Progress toward meeting community service objectives.

During the first quarter much of the time was spent on start-up and training. During the second quarter most of the time was spent in production type work related to both objectives.

Objective A: Deals with providing information on wetlands to landowners and producers to assist in natural resource decisions and compliance with federal programs. During this quarter 481 landowners or producers were met with one on one by the AmeriCorps members. They provided information on wetland functions and values, and provided maps, if desired, to the landowner. During discussions they answered questions on these and related issues to wetlands. This service to the farming community greatly reduced the number of wetland appeals and also educated landusers on wetland issues. These activities were performed in a manner which required coordination with cooperating federal and local agencies.

Objective B: Deals with digitizing soil survey information and making it available to the community to improve natural resource decisions. During the second quarter AmeriCorps members were able to digitize 21 USGS full quads of soil survey information. In addition to performing the digitizing they made presentations to county agencies in Jackson and Clark Counties, to an interagency group made up of State, Federal, and local units of government, and University of Wisconsin officials. These presentations and demonstrations will better inform the communities of the value of digitized soil survey information.

7. Primary accomplishments.
Information included above in #6.
8. Projected outcomes for next quarter.
Continue with same work described above in #6.
9. Primary challenges.
N/A
10. Primary training and technical assistance needs.
N/A

11. Media coverage.

None during this quarter.

12. Other creative documentation.

None.

project specialists:

We have made progress toward decreasing our recreation facility backlog by maintaining over 300 developed recreation sites campgrounds to a high standard of public satisfaction; by improving facility condition at Jigger Johnson toilets and pumphouse and at the Bartlett Lodge; by maintaining 4 backcountry toilet facilities.

Enhance and/or monitor the ecosystems for threatened and endangered species, including 15 acres of habitat improvement, 200 acres of headwater streams stocked with Atlantic salmon, and 10 wildlife monitoring sites:

We exceeded our goal of 200 acres stocked with juvenile atlantic salmon by 177.88 acres; exceed our wildlife habitat improvement goal by 7.7 acres this quarter; and continue to work toward our goals for wildlife monitoring sites.

Provide at least 300 school children with "Forest As A Classroom" environmental education:

We exceeded our goal of reaching 300 students with environmental education by over 100 students.

Enhance/maintain 50 miles of hiking trails to forest standards and guidelines:

We exceeded our goal of maintaining 50 miles of trails by 2.9 miles this quarter. We also constructed 68 hiker and public information signs.

Provide 180 human-hours for New Hampshire Trails' Day:

This event will take place in the fourth quarter.

Provide 16 interpretive programs at Forest Service campgrounds and cooperator Visitor Information Centers:

These events are ongoing with approximately 8 programs completed to date.

Enhance Wilderness management by providing wilderness education to 1,000 visitors, maintain 25 miles of trail to Wilderness standards and guidelines and restore 10 dispersed use sites:

We have just begun our Wilderness Visitor Information contacts for the summer season as well as the Wilderness Trail work.

Provide 6,000 forest visitors with information and education on low-impact camping, mountain safety, alpine zone protection and wilderness ethics and assist with search and rescue as needed;

We have exceeded this goal by already contacting 7,000 Forest visitors and the numbers continue to climb!

Participate in 5 community service days.
To date we have participated in 3 community service days/projects.

(b) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

Training

We have met AmeriCorps member training objectives this quarter by providing:

Defensive Driving
Basic Firefighting (S-130 and S-190)
Chainsaw Use and Operation
Environmental Education
SCA Wilderness Work Skills
Timber Workskills
Falcon Monitoring
Interpretive Training Institute
Conflict Resolution and Group Dynamics

In addition to these formal trainings, we have had on-going experiential training on low-impact camping, mountain safety and survival and community living/problem-solving.

Leadership

A new aspect of the program this quarter is that we now have Corps members taking over direct project coordination and leadership. The project coordinator oversees logistics, preparedness, accountability, monitoring and safety on individual projects. This has greatly increased the learning and leadership opportunities for AmeriCorps members.

(c) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

This quarter the White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps has gotten out into the local community for more collaborations than the previous quarter:

Provided 20 inner-city youth with the chance to work side by side with AmeriCorps members for an overnight and a day;

Worked with local high school students to clean up a section of New Hampshire Highway 16 and now those students will be taking on this responsibility in the future;

Provided local and regional school children with environmental education and hiking trips on the national forest;

Coordinated a week of service for eleven Portsmouth High School students;

Joined the local community in the Swift River Clean-up day.

In addition we continue to work on our own community building and strengthening through problem solving, discussion and community decision-making.

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

Administrative

The White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps successfully completed the winter schedule of projects and moved forward with developing and beginning work on the summer schedule. This was a well-met challenge to our logistic and planning skills.

This quarter has been one of rapid change and growth. We have transitioned from a residential-facility based program to backcountry "spike camps". We've developed new support systems for supplying food, shelter and tools to the crews. AmeriCorps members have all completed defensive driving and are now able to drive the program vehicles. This has been a huge help allowing Corps members to be more responsible and to take on Project Coordinator roles.

We have improved our documentation by creating a portfolio which includes project evaluations, member project evaluations, weekly reports, communications and site specific Risk Management Plans. The Risk Management Plans include location of the nearest medical facility, communication plans in case of an emergency, radio contact protocol, emergency contact information and first aid kits.

We have developed a Project Coordinator packet detailing all the procedures, including pre- and post-work checklists, for planning, implementing and supervising work projects. AmeriCorps members sign up to be Project Coordinators with technical support provided by crew leaders and Forest Service staff.

Field Projects

Listed below are the field projects that have been accomplished this quarter, including total hours required and the corresponding cost had we used force account GS-5 employees (not including overhead/administration costs).

Facility Construction/Maintenance and Program Preparation

Constructed a 12'x8'x6' shed to store recycling bins and materials, enabling AmeriCorps to comply with kitchen health and safety codes while also setting a positive example of community recycling.

Constructed shelving in a 6'x8' room in the base facility to be used for resupply and pack-out space for support of spike camps.

Reroofed 4 toilet buildings, 20x20' each, and one pump house at Jigger Johnson Campground along the Kancamagus Scenic Byway. (420.5 hours=\$3,910.65)

Completed the construction of the Bartlett Lodge at the Bartlett Experimental Forest, bringing the facility up to health and safety code standards. This building is used by researchers, graduate students and Forest Service seasonal employees doing work on the national forest. (294.5=\$2650.50)

Inventoried and checked the condition of supplies and equipment in five Forest Service emergency fire caches, assuring that proper equipment is available and ready to use in the event of a forest fire. (98 hours=\$9114)

Trail Maintenance and Construction

Finished 52.9 miles of level one trail maintenance, including clearing blowdowns and cutting brush on trails that otherwise might have remained difficult to use. (535.5 hours=\$4980.15)

Concluded several level two trail reconstruction projects including: 7 sets of rock steps; 180' foot path within Covered Bridge Campground on the Kancamagus Scenic Byway; three timber foot bridges (22' 12' and 12'); construction of water bars and other drainage and erosion-control devices. All of these projects have created or improved access to national forest hiking trails and have controlled resource damage due to soil loss from erosion and widening of trails. (1375 hours= \$12,787.50)

Built a set of 3 bridges over a beaver pond totaling 46 feet and including 7 stringers and 2 cribs. These bridges provide access to an area that had become inaccessible due to a growing beaver pond. (280 hours=\$2604)

Prepared 5 national forest campgrounds, and over 300 campsites, for summer use by raking, cleaning, chipping brush, staining picnic tables and removing hazard trees so that campers would have a safe and enjoyable experience. (290 hours= \$2697)

Removed human waste from 4 backcountry campsites so they would remain usable and not contaminate ground water. (104 hours+ \$967.20)

Constructed 8 trail-user registration boxes to assist with monitoring national forest use. (72 hours= \$669.60)

Visitor Information and Education

Provided information, education and search and rescue as needed to 7,000 visitors to Tuckerman Ravine, Mt. Washington during the popular spring-skiing season. Several AmeriCorps members also assisted the Forest Service and the public by shooting video footage of falling ice and search and rescue activities in Tuckerman ravine in preparation for creating a short, public safety video. (510 hours=\$4743)

Three Corps members planned and prepared a display for the Saco Visitor Information Center to honor national wildflower week. They worked with a local nursery to get supplies for the display, provided wildflower interpretive information and left the Forest Service with resources to use for future displays and programs.

Two Corps members are working on a tree identification pamphlet to help forest visitors learn more about local forests and resources.

The Corps worked with 160 local elementary school students to identify and plant 160 trees as part of the Kids for Trees project.

Eleven Corps members worked with the Appalachian Mountain Club and local schools to provide environmental education to over 300 school children. Many of these kids, although they live next door to the national forest, have never gone for a hike or explored the mountains around them. (1320 hours = \$12,276)

Cultural Resources

AmeriCorps members are currently assisting the Forest Archaeologist by researching information on native people, including participation in an archaeological dig. The members will document and present their findings, including a slide show.

Timber Stand Improvement

Selected and released 52 acres of White and Yellow Birch trees in 8-10 year old clear-cuts to improve future timber quality. (643 hours=\$5980.12)

Worked on post-timber sale clean-up and rehabilitation on 12 acres of the Homestead Timber sale and 3 acres along Evans Notch Highway to improve wildlife habitat and increase the visual quality. (212 hours=\$1971.60)

Visual Quality

Cut, cleared and chipped trees along a 1,000 foot stretch of the Kancamagus Scenic Byway to reclaim scenic views. (248 hours=\$2306.40)

Public Information Signs

Routed and painted 68 trail and public information signs, including a detailed public safety sign warning hikers and skiers of the danger of falling ice in Tuckerman Ravine. (316 hours= \$2938.80)

Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Improvement

Maintained 22.7 acres of wildlife openings using prescribed burning. (204 hours=\$1897.20)

Stocked 377.88 acres (139.85 miles) of the Baker, Mad River, South Branch of Baker, Stinson Brook, Beebe, Pemigewasset, Ammonoosuc, Tunnel Brook and Gale Rivers with Atlantic Salmon Fry as part of a multi-agency atlantic salmon restoration effort. (332 hours=\$3087.60)

Stocked 8-14 inch Brook Trout in the Wild River in an effort to increase survival rates. (16 hours= \$148.80)

Continue to assist with small mammal trapping as part of the White Mountain National Forest wildlife monitoring efforts.

Checked and cleaned rain gauges and weirs at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest to assist with Forest Health monitoring. (80 hours=\$744)

Community Service

Picked up 63 bags of trash along 2 miles of New Hampshire Highway 16 in collaboration with Gorham, NH High School students who plan to continue to pick up trash along this section of road.

Participated in a cooperative clean-up of the Swift River along the Kancamagus Scenic Byway in Albany, NH. In addition to ten White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps members, 92 people from the surrounding communities took part in the day.

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.)

When a sixty-one year old skier dislocated his shoulder on the Sherburne Ski trail, five AmeriCorps members who were working on the trail and were recently certified in Wilderness First Aid were able to put their training into practice and assist the man. The skier was extremely grateful and the members were happy to have used their training.

AmeriCorps established a strong partnership with a group of eleven high school students from Portsmouth, New Hampshire who elected to spend their spring break doing trail work on the White Mountain National Forest. The parents of two of the students were so impressed by the impact made on their sons that they wrote a letter to President Clinton and their Congressional delegations expressing their support of the WMNF AmeriCorps and the entire AmeriCorps program. The following excerpt from a letter written by the coordinator of the exchange, an AmeriCorps Learn and Serve participant, exemplifies the week:

"We were all moved by the quality of your work and the warmth of your community. I'm amazed that you all can work that hard with such persistence and commitment. I have a great new perspective."

Using prescribed burning to maintain and create wildlife habitat was one of the Corps most challenging and gratifying jobs, from learning to use firefighting tools, to the hard work of creating and controlling fire for the benefit of ecosystems.

The "pack-out" room designed and built by the AmeriCorps members, though small, is a special success. The plethora of dry goods stored and measured there for crews to take into the woods with them for week-long stints is now organized efficiently and deliberately. Our cook has studied many aspects of backcountry cooking to be sure crews have the proper amounts of proteins, carbohydrates and fats in a wide-variety of non-perishable and satisfying foods. Each week, one or two members assist with getting food ready and thereby learn for themselves about the challenges of remote meal planning and nutrition.

15. Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter: (Report on problems resolved and unresolved, obstacles to achieving program objectives, significant sources of delay, program elements not meeting expectations, events or incidents that caused concern.) Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs this Quarter: None.

The Project Director resigned in April and we decided not to fill his position directly but to re-define the staffing structure. This has meant increased responsibility for crew leaders and AmeriCorps members alike.

One of our primary challenges has been learning to live in harmony with the Maine Army National Guard with whom we share our residential facility. Different expectations and understandings have led to some dissatisfaction on all sides. We continue to negotiate, assess and reassess our progress. This forces us to be reminded of the real-world difficulties of peaceful co-existence between different groups of people!

There is a constant and general difficulty of trying to meet the personal, professional, programatic and scheduling needs of 32 different individuals. In addition to the Corps member needs we have needs and expectations on behalf of all the partners: the White Mountain National Forest, the Student Conservation Association/New Hampshire Conservation Corps, the Maine Army National Guard, USDA and even the Corporation. In our hurry to get our program up and running we did not put as much up-front time into discussing expectations and roles as would have been helpful. On the other hand, we've learned a lot and are eager to do more and better planning in the future.

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

Participated in a State-wide AmeriCorps event focused on accomplishing group tasks.

Acquired and affixed AmeriCorps patches to our uniforms.

Acquired AmeriCorps baseball caps.

Collaborated with an AmeriCorps Learn and Serve member who brought 11 high school students to visit our program and work with us for a few days. Their experience was so positive they wrote letters of thanks and the parents of two students wrote letter to President Clinton and their Congressional representatives expressing their appreciation for AmeriCorps.

Collaborated with 20 students from Roxbury, Massachusetts to introduce them to national forests, the mountains, trail work and career possibilities in natural resources, including AmeriCorps.

Provided information and safety education to 7,000 skiers and hikers on the White Mountain National Forest in Tuckerman Ravine, explaining to many of them who and what AmeriCorps is.

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

Our Program Director, hired through our 3rd party partnership with the Student Conservation Association, resigned. We also lost several members for personal reasons. The departure of the members and the Project Director were felt strongly by the rest of the Corps members. Although this was a temporary setback and a disappointment it has not made us suffer from any long-term effects that would decrease our ability to meet our objectives.

Corporation for National Service
Operating Site Quarterly Report

- 1. Operating site name: White Mountain National Forest
- 2. Program name: White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps
- 3. Corporation grantee name: USDA
- 4. Mark the reporting quarter to which this form applies:

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

- 5. On what date did your AmeriCorps Members begin service or training? 1/15/95
- 6. In the table below indicate (a) the number of full and part-time AmeriCorps Members that were enrolled as of the last day of the reporting quarter and (b) the total cumulative service hours completed by the AmeriCorps Members as of the last day of the reporting quarter.

Number of AmeriCorps Members	Total Cumulative Hours of required Service	
32	11,605.5	Full-time
		Part-time

- 7. Please provide estimates of the following:
 - (a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: 10
 - (b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: 80

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

The White Mountain National Forest, in partnership with the Student Conservation Association's New Hampshire Conservation Corps, has successfully put a brand new AmeriCorps program into the field. Starting on January 2 1995, the leadership team arrived for two weeks of training in preparation for the Corps' members arrival. During this training session, the Crew Leaders and Project Director went through a variety of workshops related to both "soft" and "hard" skills.

Thirty-two AmeriCorps members arrived on January 15 to begin their 1700 hours of community service. It was amazing how Corps members adjusted to living as a community, an essential component to a successful and productive Corps. They are a fabulous group. Corps members went through a two-week training that covered first aid, winter preparedness, conflict resolution, essentials of community living and an introduction to public land management.

We were especially pleased to have successfully recruited 32 dynamic and committed AmeriCorps members from diverse geographic, socio-economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

After the initial training period the White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps hit the field and accomplished the following:

Training

Complete training in: CPR, Wilderness First Aid, Search and Rescue, Project Documentation, Community Dynamics, Leave No Trace, public education and information.

Facility Development and Program Preparation

Acquired tools and equipment to perform work projects.

Constructed roof racks with the AmeriCorps name allowing us to carry tools and equipment in compliance with Forest Service health and Safety Code.

Built recycling bins to store our kitchen waste.

Reconstructed the interior of a house used for seasonal and researcher housing, at the Bartlett Experimental Forest. This project involved technical aspects of building construction, and also of hanging drywall, taping, mudding, and painting.

Painted the inside of the Tuckerman Ravine Snow Ranger Cabin. This cabin is used as crew quarters for Forest Service Snow Rangers and as a staging area for the Mt. Washington Volunteer Ski Patrol in winter and spring. In addition, it is used as a first aid and search and rescue room. Completing this project helped to reduce the forest recreation facility maintenance

backlog and gives the public a much nicer place to receive first aid assistance!

Renovated the interior of a bathroom in another building on the Bartlett site.

Sharpened tools for several Ranger Districts in preparation for the upcoming summer work season.

Vista Enhancement

Cleared 1/4 mile scenic vista along the Kancamagus Scenic Byway at Lower Falls.

Cleared 30 acres of scenic vista by Green's Cliff along the Kancamagus Scenic Byway. The Scenic Byway is visited by over 200,000 people annually. Clearing these vistas has reclaimed spectacular views for visitors.

Trail Maintenance and Construction

Removed an existing wooden bridge from the Sherburne Ski Trail and replaced it with a 20' bridge. This bridge allows skiers to access the ski trail and also allows passage for the Forest Service Thiokol. This machine is used by Snow Rangers for search and rescue.

Brushed 4 miles of hiking and ski trail along the Tuckerman Ravine Trail, the Sherburne Ski Trail and the Huntington Fire Road on Mt. Washington. These trails are in one of the most heavily used backcountry recreation areas, accessing Tuckerman Ravine which is famous for spring skiing. This also allows Forest Service Snow Rangers to more easily access Tuckerman Ravine for search and rescue.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Cleared 52 acres of brush at the "Hotel Site" along the Kancamagus Scenic Byway. This will maintain a permanent opening for bluebirds (a Forest indicator species) and other species that utilize grassy openings thereby increasing the Forest biodiversity.

Cleared 3 acres at Marsh Brook to restore an historic apple orchard. This will create special habitat for increased mast production and to create permanent wildlife openings as directed in the White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Cleared 3 acres at Livermore to restore an historic apple orchard. See above.

Cleared 5 acres to restore an historic apple orchard at Grey's Field. See above.

Timber Stand Improvement

Selected and released 30 acres of white and yellow birch trees within an eight year old clear cut, to improve future timber quality

Sign Construction

Routed, painted and stained 120 trail and public information signs. These signs will be used to help visitors find their way on hiking trails, along Forest roads and at Forest information centers.

Based on the number of hours spent we calculate that it would have cost the Forest Service \$86,220 (based on a GS-3 \$7.43/hour wage and not including administrative costs) to complete these projects without AmeriCorps.

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.)

Our greatest story is that we began a new program with 32 people who had never met one another in the middle of a New England winter and turned the group into a productive and positive team, performing meaningful work on the national forest. We have developed strong partnerships across private, federal and non-profit organizational lines between the Forest Service, Student Conservation Association, Maine Army National Guard, New Hampshire AmeriCorps Commission and others. We are all proud of the cooperative effort and spirit that is making the White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps a success.

The positive group dynamic of our Corps is directly related to our having gone through challenge and adversity--from dealing with difficult winter conditions, the ambiguities of a new program, and the variety of needs, requests and expectations of the individuals and organizations involved.

A Few Reflections from the Corps

Seven Corps members and a crew leader stayed out overnight at the Marsh Brook site, where we were releasing apple trees for historic value and as a Wildlife Habitat Improvement site. As the sun was setting behind the Presidential range across the valley, we heard the woodcock's "peet", a sound that woodcocks make during the Spring to attract a mate. In the site that we had opened for wildlife, we watched the woodcock perform its mating ritual. First it made its "peet" sound over and over again for about a minute. Then this typically ground-dwelling bird flew up into the air. As it is a ground-dwelling bird, its wings are not really suited for flying, and as it rose through the twilight, its wings made a whistling sound. In order to complete the ritual, the woodcock swoops in a large circle and finally returns close to the exact spot it started, always making its whistling sound. This continued all night, and we all felt gratified to have cleared a field exclusively for the benefit of animals like the woodcock.

Returning from work one day, a crew working on Timber Stand Improvement for the Ammonoosuc Ranger District watched two moose cross the road and continue up into a field beside the road. For many Corps members, living in Western Maine provides a unique opportunity to be closer to wildlife such as moose and bear and for some, these were the first moose they had ever seen.

One of the most challenging projects we have worked on so far is brushing the Tuckerman Ravine Trail on Mt. Washington. Corps members rose to the challenge and found satisfaction in working in below-freezing temperatures and frequent snowfall which was at times waist-deep. Thousands of hikers use this trail and many of them stopped and inquired about AmeriCorps, having seen our jackets. When they learned what we were doing and why we were doing it, people thanked us and told us what valuable work we were doing.

On another occasion two Corps members met a Civilian Conservation Corps alumnus who explained that years ago he had worked on many projects on the national forest, similar to what AmeriCorps is doing now. He commented on what a valuable experience it was for him personally, and congratulated the two women for embarking on such a challenging, rewarding year.

Quotes from the Corps:

What are your favorite aspects of the program?

Seeing a group of people from very diverse backgrounds work together effectively to get various conservation projects done.

Jenn Stevens

Mediating a conflict between two corps members. Becoming competent at using a variety of tools, including my body, for work.

Suzanne Weil

Bringing 40 strangers together to make this AmeriCorps program successful could easily have been Hercules' eighth task- especially when faced with the cynicism of a few powerful Republicans. The success with which we've ironed out such a broad spectrum of wrinkles ranging from organizing our chores to completing our projects is a milestone for this corps, in my eyes.

Joe Kiernan

Tracking animals for the Forest Service wildlife biologists. Renovating the Bartlett Experimental Forest house. Forming a community with 40 strangers.

Mike Argus

I'm getting exposed to enough wonderful things to keep me busy for a lifetime.

Claire Darling

Working hard with some of the nation's elite for a great cause that will affect the preservation of a resource that people can enjoy in the future.

Andy Szott

Overcoming my fear of power tools.

Alison Chase

Learning how to identify trees and animal tracks.

Marc Richardson

I've learned to live with my group and respecting others' ideas. I'm also learning to work under different levels of responsibility and maturity.

Roger Lates

I'm learning to be more of a leader. I have initiated things, helped with organization, taken a role of command.

Anonymous

I feel that each individual here is concerned that the work we do be something that impacts the community and the mountains in a positive way. The media has had positive and negative comments to make about what we do here. Personally acknowledging these contrasting views and comparing them to the work we are able to finish for the Forest Service, I am able to see past all the hype and feel that we are accomplishing a great deal in the way of actual field work.

Anonymous

I feel that I have accomplished personal goals that I would not have if I was somewhere else. I'm grateful to be here.

Erik Hamilton

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

(1) Direct Service Objectives:

Exceeded our wildlife habitat improvement objective of 15 acres by completing 63 acres.

Completed 4 miles of a 50 mile trail maintenance objective.

Completed the "Leave No Trace" training component in preparation for contacting and presenting educational programs to Forest visitors.

Participated in 1 out of 5 scheduled community service days in a State-wide AmeriCorps service event in Manchester, New Hampshire on Martin Luther King Day.

Relieved Forest facility maintenance backlog by bringing the Bartlett Lodge up to life and safety code.

Relieved Forest recreation facility maintenance backlog by painting the Tuckerman ravine cabin.

Enhanced hiking trail system by constructing 120 information signs.

(2) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

Training

We have met AmeriCorps member training objectives by providing the following opportunities:

Wilderness First Aid and Search and Rescue -- certification through Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO).

Training in conflict resolution.

Crash course in "Leave No Trace" environmental ethics.

Chainsaw operation and safety course.

One State-wide AmeriCorps training in leadership development.

Community development training.

Discussions on national forest issues and land management.

Leadership Development

The "Leader of the Day" and "Leader of the Week" responsibilities provide Corps members with the opportunity to assume planning and on-site leadership responsibilities at work sites and in the day-to-day life of the community. Duties include additional leadership responsibility, running logistics, making announcements before our meals, and facilitating the weekly town meeting.

AmeriCorps Member-Driven projects allow members to work as teams or individuals on projects of their own design, in cooperation with Forest Service staff and members of the local communities. Each corps member has begun a project which more closely relates to his or her personal goals and ideals, and will allow him/her to function in a professional capacity away from the Corps aspect of the program. In addition, it has proven to be another means in which individuals take more ownership for the White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps program. Projects range in scope from animal tracking in the snow, to monitoring owl surveys, to working with Forest Service personnel to study water levels within the forest.

3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

A strong sense of community plays a key role in the productivity of any program. Within the White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps program it has been a truly rewarding, yet challenging, experience to bring Corps members from vastly different backgrounds together into a cooperative community.

Once a week the entire AmeriCorps community comes together for a New England style Town Meeting. We allow time enough for each member to talk for a moment about how he/she is feeling about his/her place in the community, to check-in, and keep lines of communication open--not always easy with a group of 40 people.

Each Tuesday night, there are men and women's group meetings so that the group can break in two and discuss issues on a more intimate level. We also meet in small groups- one crew leader to four or five corps members- so that individuals can express themselves without the eyes of the whole group upon them.

We developed a chore-wheel which rotates on a daily and weekly basis with jobs like meal preparation, morning reading presentation, and meal clean-up. This gives each participant an equal share of community responsibility and work. It eliminates any hard feelings among the Corps members about one person consistently taking on more responsibility than another, and it allows each participant pre-arranged time during the week for quiet space.

Evening activities include: bi-weekly gym night, where the local high school has offered its facilities; going to the local fitness center where we receive a discount; storytelling, mask making, a performance by Robert Post at Gould Academy, campfires, night hikes, knitting, and talks by Forest Service staff. On weekends, people have gotten together on their own time for ice climbing, an environmental conference at Tufts University, and many hiking and skiing trips.

One of the more notable accomplishments of this first quarter is the diversity of individuals we have brought together to form a unified whole. Two and a half months into the program, the crew has seemed to hit stride. Friendships, based on a common devotion to the environment, have brought about increased self-esteem among the corps members, and a greater comfort with exploring new challenges. More and more, individuals are expressing themselves and their needs within the program. They are taking more and more initiative to make their specific and unique contributions to the White Mountain National Forest.

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

A start-up program can not be expected to be free of challenges. We have begun to look at the problems we are facing as opportunities for the corps members to get more involved with the various aspects of the program and hopefully take more ownership of, what they are saying, is a very valuable experience.

One of our greatest challenges is dealing with so much to do and so little time to do it all! We seem to always crave more time for planning, thinking, making work and living arrangements and juggling logistics. We are working to make ourselves more efficient as a group and also to recognize that we have come a long way in just over two months.

Another challenge for us has been learning to work and live in cold and snowy weather. We have helped Corps members learn how to prepare for winter conditions and have negotiated discounts with local outfitters to provide winter gear at reduced prices. The positive side of meeting this challenge has been the sense of satisfaction and accomplishment among the Corps that has developed at being able to adjust to any and all weather conditions.

Collaborative efforts always pose a challenge to communication. We have had to work hard at keeping lines open not only between Corps members and Crew Leaders but also between the Corps, Forest Service staff, the Maine Army National Guard, the Student Conservation Association, New Hampshire Conservation Corps staff and the New Hampshire AmeriCorps program! All of us are making strong efforts to be open and honest, to work out potential problems before they escalate and most of all to appreciate the complexities and rewards of partnerships and all we bring to it.

Our facility, the Bog Brook Training Facility, is shared with the Maine Army National Guard (MARNG), operating under a special use permit from the White Mountain National Forest. The MARNG has been very open and positive about working with the AmeriCorps program and eager to cooperate across agencies. Nevertheless, there sometimes arise the inevitable difficulties of sharing a facility, needing more space and juggling schedules. Once again the prime way to meet this challenge is through good communication.

Finally, we have been challenged to move beyond the usual youth corps programs that we have worked on in the past to a very different adult service program. The paradigms from our past experiences do not always translate directly into AmeriCorps and we have had to recognize and adapt to the differences.

AmeriCorps member comments on what they see as the greatest challenges:

Taking private time when I can get it, which isn't always when I need it.
Rika Vesely

The hardest part about being here has been trying to find enough space and time in such a tight community.

Stina Johnson

Acceptance into the community, ... balancing life outside of AmeriCorps with my life in the Corps.

Jeff Kalman

Working steadily in a large group of diverse people while the wrinkles in job objectives and management are smoothed out, and while we learn applicable skills.

John Cooley

As a crew member in the first year of AmeriCorps, the largest challenge has been forming a program in which we can all feel that we are providing a valuable service to the larger community balanced with growth and learning opportunities for each of us.

Anonymous

The surprising dearth of resources with which we are expected to succeed.

Emily Nash, Crew Leader

Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs this Quarter:

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

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

To foster and increase our national AmeriCorps identity we have done the following:

Purchased uniform jackets which say White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps and include the AmeriCorps patch; issues AmeriCorps T-shirts and Carhart work pants to all members.

Ordered AmeriCorps decals for hard hats and tools.

Put the AmeriCorps name on tool racks on AmeriCorps vans and have ordered metal door logos.

Participated in two State-wide AmeriCorps events.

Created a White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps handbook.

Completed training in CPR, first aid, conflict resolution and leadership development.

Had a member swearing-in ceremony that included the Forest Service, the Student Conservation Association, the New Hampshire Conservation Corps, New Hampshire AmeriCorps, and the Maine Army National Guard.

Worked with local and regional media (Bethel Citizen, Concord Monitor, Boston Globe, Public Television, and local radio) to let communities know what we are doing and who we are.

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.)

No changes.

Corporation for National Service
 Operating Site Quarterly Report

1. Operating site name: White Mountain National Forest
2. Program name: White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps
3. Corporation grantee name: USDA

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

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

5. On what date did your AmeriCorps Members begin service or training? 1/15/95

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

Number of AmeriCorps Members	Total Cumulative Hours of required Service	
32	11,605.5	Full-time
		Part-time

7. Please provide estimates of the following:
 - (a) Total number of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities: 10
 - (b) Total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers: 80

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

The White Mountain National Forest, in partnership with the Student Conservation Association's New Hampshire Conservation Corps, has successfully put a brand new AmeriCorps program into the field. Starting on January 2, 1995 the leadership team arrived for two weeks of training in preparation for the Corps' members arrival. During this training session, the Crew Leaders and Project Director went through a variety of workshops related to both "soft" and "hard" skills.

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We were especially pleased to have successfully recruited 32 dynamic and committed AmeriCorps members from diverse geographic, socio-economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

After the initial training period the White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps hit the field and accomplished the following:

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Complete training in: CPR, Wilderness First Aid, Search and Rescue, Project Documentation, Community Dynamics, Leave No Trace, public education and information.

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Seven Corps members and a crew leader stayed out overnight at the Marsh Brook site, where we were releasing apple trees for historic value and as a Wildlife Habitat Improvement site. As the sun was setting behind the Presidential range across the valley, we heard the woodcock's "peet", a sound that woodcocks make during the Spring to attract a mate. In the site that we had opened for wildlife, we watched the woodcock perform its mating ritual. First it made its "peet" sound over and over again for about a minute. Then this typically ground-dwelling bird flew up into the air. As it is a ground-dwelling bird, its wings are not really suited for flying, and as it rose through the

twilight, its wings made a whistling sound. In order to complete the ritual, the woodcock swoops in a large circle and finally returns close to the exact spot it started, always making its whistling sound. This continued all night, and we all felt gratified to have cleared a field exclusively for the benefit of animals like the woodcock.

Returning from work one day, a crew working on Timber Stand Improvement for the Ammonoosuc Ranger District watched two moose cross the road and continue up into a field beside the road. For many Corps members, living in Western Maine provides a unique opportunity to be closer to wildlife such as moose and bear and for some, these were the first moose they had ever seen.

One of the most challenging projects we have worked on so far is brushing the Tuckerman Ravine Trail on Mt. Washington. Corps members rose to the challenge and found satisfaction in working in below-freezing temperatures and frequent snowfall which was at times waist-deep. Thousands of hikers use this trail and many of them stopped and inquired about AmeriCorps, having seen our jackets. When they learned what we were doing and why we were doing it, people thanked us and told us what valuable work we were doing.

On another occasion two Corps members met a Civilian Conservation Corps alumnus who explained that years ago he had worked on many projects on the national forest, similar to what AmeriCorps is doing now. He commented on what a valuable experience it was for him personally, and congratulated the two women for embarking on such a challenging, rewarding year.

Quotes from the Corps:

What are your favorite aspects of the program?

Seeing a group of people from very diverse backgrounds work together effectively to get various conservation projects done.

Jenn Stevens

Mediating a conflict between two corps members. Becoming competent at using a variety of tools, including my body, for work.

Suzanne Weil

Bringing 40 strangers together to make this AmeriCorps program successful could easily have been Hercules' eighth task- especially when faced with the cynicism of a few powerful Republicans. The success with which we've ironed out such a broad spectrum of wrinkles ranging from organizing our chores to completing our projects is a milestone for this corps, in my eyes.

Joe Kiernan

Tracking animals for the Forest Service wildlife biologists. Renovating the Bartlett Experimental Forest house. Forming a community with 40 strangers.

Mike Argus

I'm getting exposed to enough wonderful things to keep me busy for a lifetime.

Claire Darling

Working hard with some of the nation's elite for a great cause that will affect the preservation of a resource that people can enjoy in the future.

Andy Szott

Overcoming my fear of power tools.

Alison Chase

Learning how to identify trees and animal tracks.

Marc Richardson

I've learned to live with my group and respecting others' ideas. I'm also learning to work under different levels of responsibility and maturity.

Roger Lates

I'm learning to be more of a leader. I have initiated things, helped with organization, taken a role of command.

Anonymous

I feel that each individual here is concerned that the work we do be something that impacts the community and the mountains in a positive way. The media has had positive and negative comments to make about what we do here. Personally acknowledging these contrasting views and comparing them to the work we are able to finish for the Forest Service, I am able to see past all the hype and feel that we are accomplishing a great deal in the way of actual field work.

Anonymous

I feel that I have accomplished personal goals that I would not have if I was somewhere else. I'm grateful to be here.

Erik Hamilton

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

(1) Direct Service Objectives:

Exceeded our wildlife habitat improvement objective of 15 acres by completing 63 acres.

Completed 4 miles of a 50 mile trail maintenance objective.

Completed the "Leave No Trace" training component in preparation for contacting and presenting educational programs to Forest visitors.

Participated in 1 out of 5 scheduled community service days in a State-wide AmeriCorps service event in Manchester, New Hampshire on Martin Luther King Day.

Relieved Forest facility maintenance backlog by bringing the Bartlett Lodge up to life and safety code.

Relieved Forest recreation facility maintenance backlog by painting the Tuckerman ravine cabin.

Enhanced hiking trail system by constructing 120 information signs.

) AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives:

aining

have met AmeriCorps member training objectives by providing the following opportunities:

Wilderness First Aid and Search and Rescue -- certification through Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO).

Training in conflict resolution.

Crash course in "Leave No Trace" environmental ethics.

Chainsaw operation and safety course.

One State-wide AmeriCorps training in leadership development.

Community development training.

Discussions on national forest issues and land management.

adership Development

The "Leader of the Day" and "Leader of the Week" responsibilities provide Corps members with the opportunity to assume planning and on-site leadership responsibilities at work sites and in the day-to-day life of the community. Duties include additional leadership responsibility, running logistics, making announcements before our meals, and facilitating the weekly-town meeting.

AmeriCorps Member-Driven projects allow members to work as teams or individuals on projects of their own design, in cooperation with Forest Service staff and members of the local communities. Each corps member has begun a project which more closely relates to his or her personal goals and ideals, and will allow him/her to function in a professional capacity away

from the Corps aspect of the program. In addition, it has proven to be another means in which individuals take more ownership for the White Mountain National Forest Americorps program. Projects range in scope from animal tracking in the snow, to monitoring owl surveys, to working with Forest Service personnel to study water levels within the forest.

3) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

A strong sense of community plays a key role in the productivity of any program. Within the White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps program it has been a truly rewarding, yet challenging, experience to bring Corps members from vastly different backgrounds together into a cooperative community.

Once a week the entire AmeriCorps community comes together for a New England style Town Meeting. We allow time enough for each member to talk for a moment about how he/she is feeling about his/her place in the community, to check-in, and keep lines of communication open--not always easy with a group of 40 people.

Each Tuesday night, there are men and women's group meetings so that the group can break in two and discuss issues on a more intimate level. We also meet in small groups- one crew leader to four or five corps members- so that individuals can express themselves without the eyes of the whole group upon them.

We developed a chore-wheel which rotates on a daily and weekly basis with jobs like meal preparation, morning reading presentation, and meal clean-up. This gives each participant an equal share of community responsibility and work. It eliminates any hard feelings among the Corps members about one person consistently taking on more responsibility than another, and it allows each participant pre-arranged time during the week for quiet space.

Evening activities include: bi-weekly gym night, where the local high school has offered its facilities; going to the local fitness center where we receive a discount; storytelling, mask making, a performance by Robert Post at Gould Academy, campfires, night hikes, knitting, and talks by Forest Service staff. On weekends, people have gotten together on their own time for ice climbing, an environmental conference at Tufts University, and many hiking and skiing trips.

One of the more notable accomplishments of this first quarter is the diversity of individuals we have brought together to form a unified whole. Two and a half months into the program, the crew has seemed to hit stride. Friendships, based on a common devotion to the environment, have brought about increased self-esteem among the corps members, and a greater comfort with exploring new challenges. More and more, individuals are expressing themselves and their needs within the program. They are taking more and more initiative to make their specific and unique contributions to the White Mountain National Forest.

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

A start-up program can not be expected to be free of challenges. We have begun to look at the problems we are facing as opportunities for the corps members to get more involved with the various aspects of the program and hopefully take more ownership of, what they are saying, is a very valuable experience.

One of our greatest challenges is dealing with so much to do and so little time to do it all! We seem to always crave more time for planning, thinking, making work and living arrangements and juggling logistics. We are working to make ourselves more efficient as a group and also to recognize that we have come a long way in just over two months.

Another challenge for us has been learning to work and live in cold and snowy weather. We have helped Corps members learn how to prepare for winter conditions and have negotiated discounts with local outfitters to provide winter gear at reduced prices. The positive side of meeting this challenge has been the sense of satisfaction and accomplishment among the Corps that has developed at being able to adjust to any and all weather conditions.

Collaborative efforts always pose a challenge to communication. We have had to work hard at keeping lines open not only between Corps members and Crew Leaders but also between the Corps, Forest Service staff, the Maine Army National Guard, the Student Conservation Association, New Hampshire Conservation Corps staff and the New Hampshire AmeriCorps program! All of us are making strong efforts to be open and honest, to work out potential problems before they escalate and most of all to appreciate the complexities and rewards of partnerships and all we bring to it.

Our facility, the Bog Brook Training Facility, is shared with the Maine Army National Guard (MARNG), operating under a special use permit from the White Mountain National Forest. The MARNG has been very open and positive about working with the AmeriCorps program and eager to cooperate across agencies. Nevertheless, there sometimes arise the inevitable difficulties of sharing a facility, needing more space and juggling schedules. Once again the prime way to meet this challenge is through good communication.

Finally, we have been challenged to move beyond the usual youth corps programs that we have worked on in the past to a very different adult service program. The paradigms from our past experiences do not always translate directly into AmeriCorps and we have had to recognize and adapt to the differences.

AmeriCorps member comments on what they see as the greatest challenges:

Taking private time when I can get it, which isn't always when I need it.
Rika Vesely

The hardest part about being here has been trying to find enough space and time in such a tight community.
Stina Johnson

Acceptance into the community, ... balancing life outside of AmeriCorps with my life in the Corps.
Jeff Kalman

Working steadily in a large group of diverse people while the wrinkles in job objectives and management are smoothed out, and while we learn applicable skills.
John Cooley

As a crew member in the first year of AmeriCorps, the largest challenge has been forming a program in which we can all feel that we are providing a valuable service to the larger community balanced with growth and learning opportunities for each of us.
Anonymous

The surprising dearth of resources with which we are expected to succeed.
Emily Nash, Crew Leader

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.)

To foster and increase our national AmeriCorps identity we have done the following:

Purchased uniform jackets which say White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps and include the AmeriCorps patch; issues AmeriCorps T-shirts and Carhart work pants to all members.

Ordered AmeriCorps decals for hard hats and tools.

Put the AmeriCorps name on tool racks on AmeriCorps vans and have ordered metal door logos.

Participated in two State-wide AmeriCorps events.

Created a White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps handbook.

Completed training in CPR, first aid, conflict resolution and leadership development.

Had a member swearing-in ceremony that included the Forest Service, the Student Conservation Association, the New Hampshire Conservation Corps, New Hampshire AmeriCorps, and the Maine Army National Guard.

Worked with local and regional media (Bethel Citizen, Concord Monitor, Boston Globe, Public Television, and local radio) to let communities know what we are doing and who we are.

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.)

No changes.

Corporation for National Service

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

Operating site name: 4047F230

Corporation Grantee/State Commission name: USDA

Operating site ID number: 4047F230

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?)
It would have been nice--and will be good for new programs in the future--to have training that addresses the differences between already-existing youth corps programs and how they are run with AmeriCorps, an adult service program.

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

- Regional/National Training/workshop
- Regional/National Tele-video Conference
- On-site training. If so, for whom? _____
- On-site consultation
- Suggested consultant(s) _____

Number of days: _____

Start date: _____

- One-on-one telephone consultation
- Resource Materials (curricula, readings, bibliographies, other)
- Peer exchange
- Not sure what is most suitable
- Other _____

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

(Short Form)

(Follow instructions on the back)

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted White Mountain National Forest	2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned By Federal Agency R9-WM-95003	OMB Approval No. 0348-0039	Page	of pages
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3. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address, including ZIP code)
Student Conservation Assoc./New Hampshire Conservation Corps
PO Box 550 Charlestown NH 03603

4. Employer Identification Number 91-0880684	5. Recipient Account Number or Identifying Number	6. Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	7. Basis <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual
--	---	--	---

8. Funding/Grant Period (See instructions) From: (Month, Day, Year) 1/15/95	To: (Month, Day, Year) 11/15/95	9. Period Covered by this Report From: (Month, Day, Year) 1/15/95	To: (Month, Day, Year) 6/30/95
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10. Transactions	I Previously Reported	II This Period	III Cumulative
a. Total outlays		123,946.	123,946.
b. Recipient share of outlays			
c. Federal share of outlays		123,946.	123,946.
d. Total unliquidated obligations			19,800.
e. Recipient share of unliquidated obligations			
f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations			19,800.
g. Total Federal share (Sum of lines c and f)			143,746.
h. Total Federal funds authorized for this funding period			410,997.
i. Unobligated balance of Federal funds (Line h minus line g)			267,251.

11. Indirect Expense	a. Type of Rate (Place "X" in appropriate box)			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Provisionsal	<input type="checkbox"/> Predetermined	<input type="checkbox"/> Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Fixed
	b. Rate	c. Base	d. Total Amount	e. Federal Share

12. Remarks: Attach any explanations deemed necessary or information required by Federal sponsoring agency in compliance with governing legislation.

13. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete and that all outlays and unliquidated obligations are for the purposes set forth in the award documents.

14. Typed or Printed Name and Title SCOTT C WEAVER Vice President	Telephone (Area code, number and extension) 603-543-1700
15. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official <i>Scott C Weaver</i>	Date Report Submitted 4-4-95

16. Previous Editions not Usable

Standard Form 259A (REV 4-83)
Prescribed by OMB Circulars A-102 and A-110

1. Two members enrolled at time of launch.
2. Two members enrolled at end of quarter.
3. No members have been terminated.
4. 2064 hours of direct service have been performed.
5. 420 hours of training.
6. We have located, mapped, and evaluated various stream bank soil bio-engineering techniques on 21 miles of the Winooski River, and 74 upland sites, using field mapping techniques, aerial photo interpretation, and the state Geographic Information System (GIS). As part of our comprehensive watershed evaluation of the 1930's Project Vermont erosion control demonstration project, subsequent sediment deposition has been measured, changes in the morphology of the river have been investigated, and complete vegetative succession, plant/soil relationships, and wildlife habitat have been surveyed.
7. We have had the opportunity to present our project findings to USDA employees, various Vermont state natural resources agencies, and to educate concerned community members about the importance and long-term environmental benefits of erosion control in the Winooski River watershed. We have contributed our knowledge of past erosion control techniques to The Connecticut River Watershed Banks and Buffers Project, and will help guide a public, family-oriented field trip with the Addison County Forester on Lewis Creek entitled "Sustainable Forestry in the Lewis Creek Watershed, Making the Connection between Forests and Creeks." Most recently, we presented our project to the Winooski Conservation District, a municipal organization comprised of local farmers.
8. We plan to complete our field research and final watershed map, and assess the impact of long-term bank stabilization on the morphology and "natural processes" of the river. We will also interpret and compile our data in preparation for the first draft of our final report. Our findings will be published and made available to all professionals and members of the community working in watershed restoration and stream bank stabilization projects.
9. While we did receive valuable training that was pertinent to our project, it would have been much more useful if we had received it closer to the beginning of our project. We also feel that we could have done a better job if all materials and information pertaining to our project were made available to us in September.
10. See number 9.
11. Vermont Woodlands Magazine of Corinth, Vermont, has expressed a strong interest in writing an article about us and our project.

U.S. Senator James Jeffords, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, and
NRCS Vermont State Conservationist John Titchner. NRCS Chief
Paul Johnson was very impressed with our Americorps project
after a brief presentation during his visit to Vermont on
April 10, 1995

This is a project that looks beyond the short term. The
information derived from the work being done will not
immediately apparent but will have long range impacts on the
way that stream bank rehabilitation and wildlife improvement
will be conducted in the future.

13. All costs incurred during our project have been paid for
with our Americorps budget, with the exception of NRCS
vehicle use and gas. The estimated cost of this project, if
conducted by permanent NRCS employees, was \$115,000 for one
year. The cost of two Americorps members to do the same
work, including stipend, budget, minimal health benefits and
educational award, is approximately \$42,000 total, thus
saving taxpayers an estimated \$73,000, while providing a
valuable service to the local community.

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4503

October 31, 1994

Norman Smith
USDA Soil Conservation Service
12 Market Place, Unit 9
Essex Jct., VT 05452

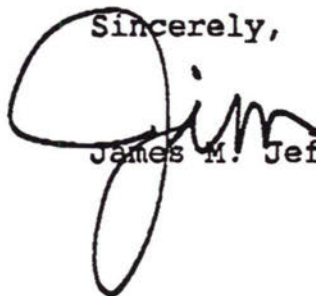
Dear Norm:

Thank you very much for all of your help in making Eli Segal's visit to Vermont a success. I thought it was a great event.

I was very impressed to learn about the efforts of the Soil Conservation Service, as well as the great work being done by Jim Ryan and Heather Short. Please relay to them my thanks for their hard work on the river. They are both very impressive.

Again, thank you for your help. Please don't hesitate to let me know if I can ever be of assistance to you. I would be happy to help you in any way that I can.

Sincerely,



James M. Jeffords

JMJ:lgk

PLEASE REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
530 DIRKSEN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4503
(202) 224-5141

MONTPELIER OFFICE:
P.O. Box 878
88 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05601
(802) 223-8273

RUTLAND OFFICE:
P.O. Box 387
2 SOUTH MAIN STREET
RUTLAND, VT 05702
(802) 773-3875

BURLINGTON OFFICE:
95 ST. PAUL STREET
SUITE 100
BURLINGTON, VT 05401
(802) 658-8001

TOLL FREE: 1-800-835-5500

TDD/TTY: 1-800-835-5500

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

SUBJECT: Chief's Visit, April 10, 1995

DATE: 4/13/95

TO: Jim Ryan
AmeriCorps Member
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Williston, VT

FILE: 130

Thanks so much for making an extra effort to make Chief Paul Johnson's visit such a success. He and Pat were impressed with the quality of our employees and our Vermont AmeriCorps programs.

Thanks again for "going the extra mile".



John C. Titchner
State Conservationist

cc: Norm Smith

SUBJECT: Chief's Visit, April 10, 1995

DATE: 4/13/95

TO: Heather Short
AmeriCorps Member
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Williston, VT

FILE: 130

Thanks so much for making an extra effort to make Chief Paul Johnson's visit such a success. He and Pat were impressed with the quality of our employees and our Vermont AmeriCorps programs.

Thanks again for "going the extra mile".



John C. Titchner
State Conservationist

cc: Norm Smith



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

March 13, 1995

Dear Jim,

It was great meeting you at the Winooski River Project site. AmeriCorps is a creative way to tackle our nation's problems and I applaud your hard work in cleaning up Vermont's precious rivers and wildlife habitat.

I have enclosed several photos I thought you might enjoy. I send them with my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Leahy". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mr. Jim Ryan
AmeriCorps Volunteer
Winooski River Project
18 Blair Park Road, Suite 207
Williston, Vermont 05495-9406

**MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY SERVICE CORPS/HUNGER TASK FORCE OF
MILWAUKEE
USDA/ AMERICORPS ANTI-HUNGER PROJECT
THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY SERVICE CORPS
THIRD QUARTER REPORT
APRIL 1st TO JUNE 31st 1995**

1. On what date did AmeriCorps begin service or training?

First enrollment - September 12, 1994 second enrollment -- December 20, 1994. Last enrollment -- February 20, 1995

In order to maximize the current grant MCSC made the decision to fill the open slots. There were eight slots that were filled on June 24, 1995.

- A) 29 full time Corps members
0 part-time Corps members

12 males / 17 females

- B) 12, 897 total hours community hours performed.

2. Total number of non-AmeriCorps members volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities:

The Milwaukee Community Service Corps and the hunger Task force Of Milwaukee has been able to garner a tremendous amount of support for the USDA/AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger project. While volunteers have availed themselves for short term signature work we have had seven individuals who consistently have given their valuable time and knowledge to the project.

Katherine Rogers and Sharon Kasner from UW-Extension
Amy Hess food nutritionist from UW- Extension
Lisa Stark, M.S., R. D. Department of Health and Social Services
Diane Moreau-Stodola, R.D., M.S., Department of Health and Social Services
Denis Lukaszewski, Shoots and Roots University of Extension
Sue Buckmann Roosevelt Middle School, Earth Day Celebration

3. The total hours of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers:

1700 community volunteer hours were collected by non-AmeriCorps members

PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THIS QUARTER

Infrastructure Construction

Goal

To develop a facility enhancement plan for a minimum of thirty emergency food pantries. Of the 30, 15 will have their physical facilities improved by the corpsmembers.

Of the 30, 15 assessment plans have been created to scope out the improvement that needed to be made. To date 8 pantries have been rehab by our corpsmembers. MCSC has established a quality of measurement through a survey that is filled out by the sponsor. (see attached) A list of names and work description follows:

St. John's Church -- Shelves were built to provide much needed storage space for the pantries' food. Cleaning was done in the pantry to provide a safe environment of the clients and the staff.

St. James Church -- Wheel Chair ramp was constructed according to ADA requirements. This ramp will provide access to clients with limited mobility. Where as before there was no ramp the pantry was not able to service these types of clients. The pantry was given a fresh coat of paint in order to brighten up the area.

Frieden's Inner City Ministries -- This pantry was in desperate need of new shelving at the time they were storing the food on tables which took too much space. The volunteers constructed new shelving and reorganized the pantry. A fresh coat of paint was applied to the pantry.

Bayview Community Center -- This pantry needed the ceiling painted, water spots had caused unsightly stains. The volunteers went in and painted they also reinforced the shelving in the pantry by constructing braces that would make the shelving sturdier. The members also corrected a slope that prevented the pantry from building a wheelchair ramp, then built the ramp helping the pantry reach ADA compliance.

Hunger Task Force -- The corpsmembers took a space that was not being utilized and transformed it into a room that now can be used as additional sorting space. The members alongside the electrician, brought down the ceiling. They were also able to put in the wall guards and then adding the finishing touches by giving the room a fresh coat of paint.

St. James-- Painted the entire pantry area.

Journey House-- Add a fresh coat of paint and worked with the pantry to design a better storage plan and opened all the windows which had been painted shut which was causing the pantry to have no ventilation.

Right Alternative-- Constructed new shelving for the pantries' food and cleaned the floors.

Milwaukee Aides Project-- Constructed a wall to separate the pantry from the offices to give the clients more privacy.

Food Handling

Goal

To increase the capacity of the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee to collect, sort inventory and distribute 1,000,000 pounds of donated and purchased food on a city-wide basis to pantries in the Emergency Food Pantry Network. Corpsmember would also work with individual pantries/meal programs by providing direct services on a short term basis.

- Worked with hunger Task Force Of Milwaukee to provide transportation for 31 Super Pantry clients for the second Super Pantry. The Super Pantry is a self-sufficient empowerment program. The participants spend 5 hours two times a week preparing themselves to be more self sufficient in daily household activities.
- Under the direction of HTFM, the Corpsmembers to date have worked in 17 different food pantries and meal sites, assisting with: food sorting, packaging of food, pantry maintenance of the pantries, food pick-ups and deliveries, record keeping, client in-take to create a client profile. Such data is particularly needed when aggregate figures are used to establish a community needs. The MCSC Corpsmembers under the direction of HTFM have continued their work at the hub of the network, First Call For Help, where 3 of the members are full-time operators.
- There are 10 Corpsmembers who are permanently placed in meal sites/food pantries or food distribution centers where they are providing direct service which includes: helping a client to the car with a bag of food, calling to locate other emergency services, helping a client fill out a form, answering emergency telephone calls, packing bags, stocking the pantry, creating a menu and doing the pantry shopping.

Right Alternative (1), Bayview Community Center (2), First Call For Help (2), Milwaukee Aids Project (1), Harambee (3) and Cross Lutheran (1)

It should be noted that these pantries represent a ethnically diverse community.

- 136 community service hours were performed by 17 members as they worked with Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee staff and Ameritec Inc. volunteers, during Banc One's Stop Hunger Day at Summerfest, on June 29, 1995. 43,000 pounds of donated food was collected. The donated food will be sorted and distributed throughout the Hunger Task Force Network of 105 pantries.
- 170 community service hours were performed by 10 of the AmeriCorps Members during the Postal drive sponsored by The United Letter Carriers Association. 395,680 pounds of food was collected and will be sorted and distributed throughout the 105 food pantries within the Hunger Task Force network.

Community Outreach and Access

- The AmeriCorps volunteers distributed 7,000 pieces of informational flyers concerning the availability of the Summer Youth Food program sponsored by the Social Development Commission, the lead organizing nonprofit.
- The members are working in five Summer Food sites-- Cross Lutheran, Harambee, Lincoln Park Lutheran Church, St. Wenceslaus and St. Andrews. This work is crucial during the summer due to the shutdown of Milwaukee Public School's lunch program. This program will make the difference between a child eating one nutritious meal per day or not eating a meal at all.
- 158 of the Social Development Commission's Head Start children were reached with the Five-a-Day promotion of five fruits and vegetables.
- 231 school age children were reached during similar group presentations of 5-a-Day.

The Five a Day program is a program started by the National Cancer Society which has been promoting that more fruits and vegetables in the a persons daily diet will reduce the risk of cancer. the State Department of Health and Social Services has taken on the task of creating an awareness of this vital information to parents and children through educational activities.

Farmers/market /urban farming

GOAL

To provide affordable fresh produce in targeted neighborhoods where emergency food programs are located by assisting in the marketing and promotion of the market in these targeted neighborhoods. in addition, corpsmembers would organize and provide 12 on-site market demonstrations of nutritious foods and the proper preparation and storage of market produce.

- 60 farmers market customers took advantage of the free demo offered by the AmeriCorps members demonstrations on proper preparation and storage of farmers market produce.
- 6,600 informational flyers were distributed around the neighborhood areas where the farmers markets are located to help provide necessary advertisement for the farmers markets.
- 12 permanent signs were created and installed as seasonal advertisement for the farmers markets.
- five urban gardens and three youth gardens plots have been chosen and planting has begun. The Urban Gardens are located in Milwaukee's inner-city on 28th and Brown and 36 and Wright, 36th and Meinecke, 25th and Brown, 25th and Vine and Mitchell field. The three youth gardens are located on 8th and Burleigh, 60 and Silver Spring and at the Silver Spring Neighborhood Community Center.

Theses gardens constitute 58, 000 square feet of land that has been developed by the AmeriCorps volunteers.

The Corpsmembers have planted 1,000 tomato plants, 600 pepper plants and several other types of vegetables such as squash, greens, onions, beets and green beans. When harvested by the AmeriCorps members and other residents, the food will be donated to the community. Some of this food will be donated to a few of the farmers markets in order to be distributed to the markets customers during the season.

The gardens have already benefited the community by allowing the residents to grow their own produce in the gardens at no charge to them. The residents have already taken ownership of the gardens in order to maintain them during the rest of the summer months.

- One of the AmeriCorps crews assisted the Gas Company and a local non-profit Northcott Neighborhood House, in a one day construction of a community play ground structure. This signature project was featured on "Positively Milwaukee," a local news (channel 6) community segment. Tape available upon request.

UNIQUE SUCCESSES OR " GREAT STORIES:

Eli Segal CEO of The Corporation for National and Community Service, visited the MCSC headquarters in May. During his visit he met with the AmeriCorps members to see the work they had been doing. During his visit he also met with our state governor Mr. Tommy Thompson.

Joel Berg, Director of National Service Programs at USDA, came to visit during the month of June. During his stay he spoke to many of the Anti-Hunger project Corpsmembers and he was able to visit some of the project sites. During the Day Mr. Berg met with HTFM staff, UW-Extension staff, local Congressional personnel and MCSC staff and board of directors.

NATIONAL IDENTITY ACTIVITIES THIS QUARTER

- WTMJ, channel 4 the NBC affiliate, ran a story on the work that the AmeriCorps members did for the US Letter carriers food drive.
- The members partnered up with Roosevelt middle school to celebrate Earth Day. The members along with the students of Roosevelt' s 457 students were able to clean up a radius of 3 miles around the school which is located in the downtown area of Milwaukee.
- WTMJ, CHANNEL 4, also covered Banc One's Stop Hunger Day that took place at the Summerfest.

Changes in program organization or key staff positions during this quarter.

One of our crew supervisors resigned. The position dedicated to the Urban Gardens and Farmers Markets was filled by Jack Cantwell, who has experience in equipment-handling and as a veteran marine, performed exemplary in leadership training.

FAX NRC'S TO:

Date: 12/15/94

Pages = 2 + this one.

To: Paula Jones
FAX (202) 690 - 0639

From: Bruce Roberts
Soil Conservation Service
6515 Watts Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53719

Phone: (608) 264-5553

FAX # 608-264-5483

Notes: Amen Corps First Quarter Report
is attached. MR

AMERICORPS/USDA QUARTERLY REPORT
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE - WISCONSIN
SEPTEMBER 12 - NOVEMBER 30, 1994

1. Number of employees enrolled at time of launch? 7
2. Number of employees enrolled at end of quarter? 6
3. Total hours of direct service performed? 2046
4. Total hours in training? 867
5. Progress toward meeting community service objectives.

Objective A: Provide information on wetlands to landowners and producers to assist in natural resource decisions and compliance with federal programs.

Preliminary steps are being taken to meet the community service objectives. Americorp members are being trained in order to meet with the public to answer questions regarding wetlands. Members are organizing files and maps that will be used when they encounter the public. Contact will be one-on-one as well as some group meetings as appropriate. Most face-to-face contact will be during the next two quarters.

Objective B: Digitize soil surveys and assist in using these to improve natural resource decisions.

Most of the work done during the first quarter dealt primarily with initial stages of the work which would allow community service interaction beginning in the second quarter.

6. Primary accomplishments.

Objective A: Americorp members are becoming knowledgeable about wetlands and how wetlands are defined. Field trips have been taken to look at wetlands in the field and to receive training from the biologist on wetland functions and values as well as identification. Each member is studying the National Food Security Act Manual to become familiar with official definitions and regulations in order to answer questions asked by the public and community leaders.

Objective B: During the first quarter much time was spent in training/orientating the members in the work, as well as setting up the worksite and beginning the initial digitizing work on two soil surveys. They have also started to work on application development using the ARC INFO software. This preparation needed to be done prior to interacting with the community which will begin in the second quarter.

7. Projected outcomes for next quarter.

Objective A: In the next quarter members will start to interact with the public and community leaders regarding wetlands. Individual farmers will meet with Americorp members regarding types and locations of wetlands on their property. Members will answer questions and provide information to farmers. The interaction will be in the field

office location and will be with County and Federal agency personnel as well as with farmers. This community service is extremely important to farmers. The information provided to them by members will have an effect on the farmer's USDA program eligibility.

Objective B: Attend meetings with community leaders and local experts to demonstrate some applications of GIS soils data. Explore with community leaders ways to make better use of soils data in community development to protect wetlands and riparian areas and to guide community growth away from flood prone areas in hopes of minimizing damage from reoccurring flooding.

8. Primary challenges.

Objective A: We have not encountered any major problems so far. Obtaining office space and equipment has been accomplished with very little obstacles. Getting the members trained in the time frame allowed will be challenging but we are very optimistic considering the excellent members we have on board. Members are working as a team and NRCS state office employees are providing supervision. Providing adequate time for supervision by permanent employees is a problem but we are addressing it with some success by utilizing a temporary employee to supervise daily work.

Objective B: Developing data sets to work with and getting community meetings set up.

9. Primary training and technical assistance needs.

These are currently being met internally.

10. Media coverage.

Most of this will begin during the second quarter.

11. Other creative documentation.

N/A

December 29, 1994

Lloyd E. Wright, Director
Community Assistance and
Resource Development
14th & Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Wright
Dear Mr. Wright:

Attached is a copy of our first quarter FY 95 Report on the USDA/Rural Development Corps/Americorps projects.

We are excited about the quality and diversity of people we have been able to attract to national service. They have hit the ground running and we are pleased with their accomplishments to date. On average, each member has completed 600 hours of service, including 100 hours of training.

Thank you for your support of this National Service Program and our projects. We hope to continue these three projects and the five project sites in FY 96. We plan to apply for a few new Rural Development Corps projects in FY 96 as well.



Rollin N. Swank
State Conservationist

*Really pleased with AMERICORP
in WV*



Attachment

FISCAL YEAR 1995 - FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT
FOR THE
WEST VIRGINIA USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CORP

AMERICORP PROJECTS

The West Virginia USDA/NRCS Rural Development Americorp Project has made significant progress towards meeting our community service objectives. We have three basic sub-project types; they were a Rural Community Assistance Project, Archaeologist Project, and a Soils and Wetland Project. The Rural Community Assistance project had one Americorp member working in Middlebourne, West Virginia. The Archaeologist project had one Americorp member working out of the Morgantown State Office serving the entire state. The Soils and Wetland project had three individuals working as members of Americorp, one in Huntington, West Virginia doing wetland identification, delineation & Conservation, and educational exercises; one individual working out of the Kingwood Office in Preston County doing soils nutrient content analysis, animal manure nutrient content analysis & crop yields all centered around reducing nutrients in the farming systems; and another individual working out of the Moorefield Office also doing nutrient and pesticide management activities for water quality purposes. In each of the sites where Americorp members are working, serving communities, they have been able to begin work on their community service objectives and have already in many cases met those objectives and have gone beyond those to other community service activities related to their project. The NRCS Americorp members have been communicating with the other members of the USDA Rural Development Team with the Forest Service as well as the Rural Development Administration members and those Americorp members on projects funded through the State Commission.

The Americorp service projects began September 11, in Charleston with a major kick-off session held at the West Virginia Culture and History Center, where all of the Americorp members met and heard about each of their projects as we kicked off the program. The Americorp members and their sponsors and agency supervisors were treated to a luncheon in the Rose Garden of Governor Gaston Caperton's mansion on the grounds of the Capitol of West Virginia. We adjourned to an after lunch program which included the swearing in of all the Americorp members via satellite by President Bill Clinton. We were addressed by Senator Jay Rockefeller and each of the Agency heads sponsoring and supporting the Americorp program through the direct USDA program.

The linkages and communications that were formed between the members and the individual projects has been a tremendous help to all of the projects throughout the state. We have been able to forge direct relations and communications with the State Commission and its director Ms. Jean Ambrose. One important linkage that has been developed is that the Americorp members serving throughout the state are linked regardless of the project that they are associated with. Throughout the state the Americorp members get together and work together on projects that go beyond their specific project missions. A couple of projects of note that the Americorp members have worked on outside of the individual USDA Rural Development Corp Projects within the NRCS include the gathering of the Americorp members in Fairmont, West Virginia to develop a Christmas party and a celebration at the Fairmont City Mission for Homeless and under privileged people in the area around Fairmont, West Virginia. The USDA Americorp folks in NRCS folks specifically joined up with the Americorp staff in McDowell County and helped put on a couple of days of the Toys for Tots Program and a Toys for Tots Party as part of their community service activity to that part of the state. We have been extremely pleased and excited about the comradery that has formed between the NRCS Americorp Rural Development Team. The five NRCS individuals that we have, have been communicating directly on nearly a daily basis with the full support of the agency, direct supervisors and have gotten together not only professionally but also socially on a frequent basis. You can see among them a real pride and excitement about what they are doing. It is an excitement and pride that is unique to the program.

The USDA NRCS Americorp cadre began with five individuals. We had one loss of an individual who left for permanent employment in Tennessee. His name was Heath Soehn. We quickly replaced him with Conley L. Marcum and returned our cadre to a five individual team. The five individuals that we have are extremely high quality people. Out of the twenty some odd applications received and considered for the Americorp membership we selected these five, two of which are young women and three young men who are either recently or within the last several years out of college or about to complete college. We enrolled three individuals who have masters degrees in their field, one individual who has a bachelors degree and one individual who has completed most of the requirements for his bachelors and is taking a year or two off to National Service. Attached is our member listing.

FIRST QUARTER FY 95 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA
NRCS AMERICORP PROJECTS

Archaeologist USDA Rural Development Corp Project

One of the major objectives of the Archaeologist Americorp project was to provide cultural resource protection through inventory, investigation, and the documentation of significant archeological sites in economically depressed areas of West Virginia. This was done in association with some of the major projects ongoing in West Virginia which include streambank protection, channel work, construction of multi-purpose flood control dams as well as other activities centered around projects. Bennett Horter is our Archaeologist with the Americorp Program, he has a Masters Degree from the University of Glasgow Scotland and has worked in the industry with consulting archeological firms throughout the state and has quite a good reputation for the work that he has done. He comes to this national service with good report with the State Historical Preservation Office, has the capability to work with these people on a first name basis and brings to the program a tremendous expertise that we did not have prior to his joining the Americorp Program.

Bennett has been able to do inventory work on about five major sites in the state of West Virginia. He also did some Phase I Archeological Investigations on an area that was about to be purchased for a plant materials center in the southern part of the state. On that site he discovered three historic and one prehistoric site that he will be documenting for the purposes of preserving that historical and cultural resource. Bennett Horter also has assisted the Forest Service in doing some archeological and historical work on the properties owned by the Forest Service to protect those cultural resources. This was done very quickly and directly between him and the Forest Service on a request basis. He has done some archeological work in the areas of Kings Creek in the Northern Panhandle. He conducted a reconnaissance survey to insure that any work that was being done in the area would not damage any cultural historical sites. He also has met with the State Historical person Pat Trader to insure that any of the work that we would be doing on the land would not interfere in major significant archeological or historical sites.

Another project that he is involved in proposes the preservation of important historical sites in Hampshire County, West Virginia. Near Romney there is an area of trenches where there was a civil war embattlement or fort and artillery site which overlooked the Potomac River. A local historical group has asked for Americorp assistance through this Archaeologist project to help document and find

project funding to develop the site for public access and public use as a major historical site.

Bennett Horter has also teamed up with our Soils Wetland Project person in Huntington to develop a important historical site associated with Point Pleasant, West Virginia along the Ohio River. Point Pleasant was the site of a historical stockade fort called Fort Randolph. During the bicentennial celebration of the town, Fort Randolph was reconstructed on a slightly different site as part of their bicentennial celebration. Bennett Horter and Wetland Ecologist Lee Mullins will be working together with the RC&D Council and the Fort Randolph Foundation to develop the Fort Randolph site for public use. Improvements which will be made will be the construction of a nature trail around the entire fort area. The trail will course through forestry plantings of significant forest species that the pioneers moving west would have depended upon. It will also course through a wetland site which will be protected and renovated and boardwalks will be constructed so that a interpretive placards can be installed as part of an educational effort on the importance of wetlands not only to the pioneers but to us today. The nature trail will also course by some displays of historical importance. It is planned that the displays will be developed on Native American life of the era associated with this fort. Bennett Horter will head up that effort. We are trying to pull together a rallying point among the Americorp members to install this trail and to install the improvements in the months of April and May. Another item of note which may be of interest is that we believe Bennett Horter and his wife had the first Americorp baby of record.

Rural Community Assistance Project located in Middlebourne, West Virginia.

This project began in September with Americorp member Heath Soehn starting off meeting with all the major towns and county government leaders in the tri-county area around Middlebourne, West Virginia. The activities that he began included those projects associated with enhancing the rural community and the quality of life in their region. Member Heath Soehn immediately became involved in assisting in programs that charted the course for the development of a plan of operations for the year.

He offered his help associated with on going conservation work in the office and in the tri-county area to kind of get a feel for how things were going on. Early in his project he worked with an individual producer to develop a pond system for the production of striped bass on a commercial basis as part of increasing aquaculture activity in the area. He also set the stage, through some meetings, to form an organization of warm water fish producers in the area. His training in fisheries management was a major asset in the development of these producer organizations.

Heath became involved in his Americorp program immediately by meeting with all of the five local high schools in the area. Speaking about Americorp and National Service and about Americorp and the opportunities that could be provided to students as they work towards their education. Heath organized the dry hydrant program in the area and began working with fire departments and local communities to get access to water for rural fire protection and set a schedule for those installations.

With the loss of Heath to full time employment in Tennessee as a Fish Hatchery Manager we were lucky in being able to enroll Conley Marcum out of Springfield, Ohio to replace Heath. Conley comes with a Masters Degree in Biology and significant experience in the field and in research in the areas of aquatic biology. Conley has been on the job for some time now and has dove directly into the project elements already started by Heath. No doubt he will find other project activities associated with helping the local communities that will fit his personal skills and the committees needs.

SOILS AND WETLAND PROJECT

We have three members working in three separate locations on this project. The first members associated with the soils and water quality project are Jill Hauser, located in Preston County out of Kingwood, Jermey Crossland, located in Moorefield, Hardy County. Both of these project sites are working with local agricultural producers and communities to improve and protect water quality, both surface and ground water, in their areas. They are providing direct assistance to producers with nutrient and pesticide management. They are evaluating the nutrient content of animal manures and poultry litters and the analyzing the nutrient content, in residual form, in the soils and matching that to crop plant needs so that application of chemical and organic fertilizers are kept to a minimum. Jill Hauser and Jermey Crossland have completed a approximately thousand acres of nutrient management assistance in their respective project areas. Jill Hauser has assisted with the planning and implementation of a major grassland meeting for producers to try to maximize their profits and minimize their inputs into their pasture and grazing land systems. Jermey Crossland has done significant work with poultry producers in the Potomac Watershed leading to the Chesapeake Bay. The third project site associated with the West Virginia Soils and Wetland Project is located in Huntington, West Virginia. Lee Ann Mullins, Wetland Ecologist is the Americorp member, is working through NRCS in Huntington on the Soils and Wetland Project. Her expertise is in the area of Wetland Ecology and she has done work in the county and around the state in the area of Wetland Habitat protection and development. Lee Ann had an opportunity along with some regular NRCS staff to attend a Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Training and Certification Session in Philadelphia, PA, during the week of September 26. She is a certified wetland delineator and is able to help us not only do wetland delineation but develop projects that she has become involved that involve wetland conservation. Lee Ann assisted the WV Department of Natural Resources to do gillnet surveys at the Beach Fork Lake and East Lynn Lake in West Virginia. She also was asked to speak at the Greenbottom Wildlife Management Area Symposium. She served as a coordinator for the erosion control contests for the Counties of Cabell and Wayne during November. She has been providing leadership for the interpretive trail and wetland interpretive area associated with the Fort Randolph project along with Bennett Horter. Lee Ann spoke to numbers of high school students in the multi-county area on the Americorp program and also on the importance of Wetlands to our and ecological regions and Lee Ann has also served as a major leader among the USDA Rural Development Corp members in West Virginia. She began a newsletter or a communications

channel between the Forest Service and Rural Development Administration folks on behalf of all the Americorp Project members.


In summary, these are just some highlights of the things that are going on in each of our five project locations. These folks are extremely motivated and extremely high on what they are doing and enjoy their work and have the full and complete support of their direct supervisors. We are real pleased with the quality of members and the opportunities that have been provided by the Americorp Program to broaden our ability to meet the needs of these local communities.

We are experiencing some challenges and problems at our sites. They relate to the fact that there are more activities than our individual Americorp members can get around. So we have to work real carefully with them through their NRCS supervisors to focus their efforts and to stick to their mission and to their project ideas fairly closely. We believe we can work closely with them and keep their focus on their project objectives. Of note but not a major problem for the purposes of insight to our headquarters management is that one of the things that we are encountering is where we have thrust these Americorp folks into field offices and other USDA offices and given them license to go and do these creative, different things which do not quite fit the mold of normal work associated with conservation operations. We have provided them with unique and different and challenging training and what appears to be fairly liberal free thinking program activities to work on and in some regard and some locations we have experienced some minor objection from the rank and file employees of USDA. We have attempted to deal with that by making sure it is understood that these people are working in different areas that we do not normally address which are more appropriate to a national service program. With time the rank and file employees will be more comfortable with the Americorp Project and the members and that their challenge and charge is different and they are going to be handled a little bit differently than the employee of NRCS.

We would like to highlight some of the individual and joint training that we have been able to provide the Americorp members. We are pleased that we were able to have the kickoff in Charleston jointly with the State Commission, Americorp, as well as the Forest Service and RDA members. It was an extremely uplifting, motivating, energizing session with the governor and Senator Rockefeller, and the other folks that were speaking and challenging us to go forward and do good work. The Americorp members were particularly fired up about being sworn in by the President directly, even on a day when he had been dodging airplanes. The USDA Americorp folks adjourned from that kickoff day

directly to the State 4H Camp at Jacksons Mill for a four day session on team building. We dove directly into a joint Forest Service, NRCS training session to orient the new Americorp members to what our individual agencies and the Department requirements are with issues such as time and reporting, travel reimbursements, rules and regulations centered around the Americorp Program and how it operates. We also endeavored to instill some esprit de corps and team building with a lot of volleyball and sports and activities at the Jacksons Mill 4H Center. We feel that this first week really forged some linkage between the individual members, the agency support personnel and the project directors. Subsequent to that in the middle of October, we had an opportunity to jointly conduct a week long session entitled "Helping Small Towns Survive", this was a community development/community organization meeting that was conducted by a consultant from the Heartland Institute. Each and everyone of the Americorp members came back thrilled and excited about what they learned about how to help communities go through the public process and the community process to develop projects and bring them to completion. We did this training jointly with the RDA & FS folks and we also invited county and community leaders, RC&D council chairs & RC&D coordinators. We had around fifty individuals attending, which also included the empowerment zone, economic community folks in West Virginia in attendance. Also in December we brought all of the USDA Americorp people together for a couple of days for some training in Flatwoods, West Virginia this included the Forest Service, RDA, and NRCS people. We used this as a platform for planning some future activities which included a lot of the service activities centered around the Christmas and Holiday season and New Year period. The Americorp members jointly planned several activities and scheduled those activities together to do special things for the homeless and underprivileged during the holiday season.

On the subject of equipment needs we have yet to receive any Americorp logo hats, shirts, sweatshirts, or pens for use with our Americorp members on the job. They have been operating essentially with the Americorp buttons that we received during our kickoff session in Charleston with the Governor and the State Commission. We would like to request that someone follow up with whoever was providing those items so that we can get them to our members, and can use them in our media events. All the USDA Rural Development Corps Members have access to computers with modems and anxiously await being able to implement internet communications. The Forest Service folks have laptops with modems & the NRCS folks are operating out of offices that have computers operating in Unix environment and the DOS environment and have modems. Attached as part of this report is one news article on the Fort Randolph joint project centered around the nature trail and wetland site



and the historical preservation displays. We also are attaching at least one photograph of the Americorp members and project director, Patrick D. Bowen.

This report is respectfully submitted by PATRICK D. BOWEN, Project Director, Americorp NRCS Rural Development Team.

AmeriCorps*USA
 Operating Site Quarterly Report
 National Direct, Federal, Tribal, and Territorial Programs

1. Operating site: **USDA Forest Service. Morgantown, WV**

2. Operating Site ID # : **WV=4047E25D, MN=4047E290**

3. Corporation Grantee Name: **USDA Forest Service**

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

5. Name of person completing this report: **Lew R. McCreery/Al Steele**

6. Position of person completing this report: **Program Manager/Rural Dev. Spec**

7. Telephone number: **(304) 285-1536**

8. Fax number: **(304) 285-1655**

9. e-mail address (if available):

10. **Members and Service Hours**

	FULL TIME	PART TIME
No. of Members allotted to your sites	MN=10, WV=6	WV=1
No. of Members enrolled on last day of 3rd Qtr.	MN=8, WV=5	WV=1
No. of Members who served entire 3rd Qtr.	MN=8, WV=5	WV=1
No. of Members who left sites during the 3rd Qtr.	WV=1	
No. of Members who joined sites during 3rd Qtr.		
Total Members service hours during the 3rd Qtr.	MN=450 WV=200	
Total Members service hours to date	MN=1050 WV=675	

11. Please provide estimates of the following:

(a) Total **number** of non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers who were involved in AmeriCorps service activities this quarter: **25 WV, 15 MN**

(b) Total **hours** of AmeriCorps service activities completed by non-AmeriCorps Member volunteers this quarter: **WV=900, MN=400**

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

(a) Direct Service Objectives:

Minnesota

- Developed and conducted logger education workshop, April 13, Park Rapids, MN. 50 attendees focused on educating loggers in how to harvest in a more environmentally sensitive manner (Best Management Practices).
- Completed an analysis of how a cooperative of small wood products producers (including crafters) can coordinate marketing efforts to achieve diversified markets and expand marketing opportunities. 48 organizations served. Results presented to Directors of cooperative.
- Community Development Inventory. Despite the strong dependence on forestry and tourism in Minnesota, few communities have planned for the sustainable development of their natural resources. To date, 126 communities have been contacted to determine what level of planning, if any, has been done concerning the sustainable development of their natural resources. Determining what has been done thus far, as well as the level of interest, will form the basis of future cooperative planning and development efforts. Partners in this effort will include state government, Indian tribes, county governments, and large foundations.
- Facilitated Initial Rural Development Council Meeting. 5 AmeriCorps Members were asked by the MN state forester to act as facilitators for the initial planning meeting of the MN Rural Development Council. Reports back were that everyone was very impressed with the level of knowledge and professionalism exhibited by our AmeriCorps Members. Provided an excellent opportunity for those involved with rural development issues to see the capabilities of our Members. Additionally, the meeting provided an excellent forum for Members to develop an enhanced understanding of the many and complex issues facing rural America.
- Developed a major presentation to foundation Board of Directors explaining results of surveys of manufacturers, banks, communities, and technical assistance providers. Surveys focused on determining what the barriers are to achieving sustainable development "on the ground". Result was that Board of Directors made a commitment to focus major efforts on funding rural development projects which will promote sustainability (potentially millions of dollars over the next few years).
- Alternative Fuels, short rotation woody crops. Developed, conducted, and analyzed survey to determine activity and level of interest in short rotation woody crops which can be used for bio-energy. Surveys were sent to 60 key organizations throughout Minnesota.
- Woody Riparian Buffers efforts. A major effort is underway to encourage farmers and others to leave woody buffer strips along streams and other waterways in order to protect them from siltation and other forms of environmental degradation. Wood in these buffers can be harvested selectively or the sites can grow special forest products (ginseng, etc). Conducted 20 site evaluations to determine the suitability of using developing them into buffer sites using Forest Stewardship dollars.
- Developed a cooperative agreement with the University of Minnesota to develop digitized data on soils. This data will be used to identify riparian buffers as well as potential sites for short rotation woody crops (most planted on lands that are coming out of the CRP program).

- Hybrid Poplar Video. As a short rotation woody crop, hybrid poplar can achieve phenomenal growth rates even in Minnesota's climate. In order to stimulate interest in planting it, an informational video was prepared and distributed to individuals and organizations throughout Minnesota.
- Assisted local environmental education organization develop Earth Week program and publicize it throughout North Central Minnesota.
- Rails to trails. Assisted with planning and coordination of several meetings between large landowners (mining companies), communities, and local economic development groups on a project to develop a trail system connecting the cities of Virginia and Eveleth.
- Completed a comprehensive analysis of the land use, environmental, health and safety regulations affecting Minnesota's forest products industry (from forest thru production). Discussions are beginning with state agencies, industry associations, and private non-profits on potential collaborative efforts focused on reducing waste and energy consumption, encouraging recycling, mitigating environmental impacts, and reducing sources of pollution.
- Completed planning and administrative duties (flyers, public notification) for a seminar organized by Member placed at regional environmental learning center. Seminar will bring together a diversity of interests to discuss what can be done to address "growth problems" associated with urban sprawl and heavy tourism activity in rural areas nearby to the Twin Cities. August seminar with 100 attendees expected.
- Developed and conducted programming for a variety of groups (senior citizen bus tours, etc) interested in environmental conservation. Activities are designed to increase public awareness, use, and financial support of the River Bend Nature Center. Approximately 600 people have been served.

West Virginia

- Hatfield-McCoy Trail System. In cooperation with US Bureau of Land Management, US Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, regional economic development groups, WV Office of Tourism, community groups and others have been active in the planning of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail System. The proposed 600 mile trail system stretching across 7 counties includes Mingo and Logan counties, the home of the infamous Hatfields' and McCoy's. AmeriCorps Member has been active in the identification of trail heads as well as conducting inventories of service providers such as gas stations, motels, and restaurants. This will help determine what towns are suitable for trail users and where trail heads should be placed. The trail concept calls for the trail to cross corporate lands such as coal and timber companies. Trails will be managed so they will not conflict with the primary use of the landowner. The trail will be designed for both motorized and non-motorized users.
- Conducted 12 business retention interviews in Barbour county. This interviews are intended to uncover problems faced by businesses in order to assist them in finding technical and financial resources. Business retention activities are premised on the idea that it is more desirable to keep existing business in the local area rather than expending resources on attracting new businesses.
- Assisted in planning and implementation of Phillipi Convention and

Business Bureaus' Spring Craft Festival. This activity provides mountain crafters an opportunity to show their wares as well as continue long held artisan traditions. Approximately 2500 people attended the festival.

- Resort Planning. Working with local community and economic development groups, planning is well underway in McDowell County for a publicly held recreation and resort area which is expected to bring much needed tourism dollars to impoverished southern West Virginia.
- Member assisted state Division of Forestry to develop a field survey methodology to determine the amount of logging residues (waste). This information will be used to determine whether future development of the forest products industry in WV should be discouraged. Originally developed for a 5 county area in central WV, the idea was so well received that it is being done throughout WV as well as the adjacent states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. Member played a key role in training of field crews for other areas.

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

Training: Minnesota

Lanesboro, MN. USDA Forest Service Rural Development Team Members joined 50 other AmeriCorps Members from throughout southern Minnesota (those from non USDA groups) for a weekend of training on topics relating to group dynamics, media, conflict resolution.

Central Minnesota Housing Conference. 1 Member attended a day conference on housing and problems relating to construction using local resources.

Tourism Trends Conference. 1 Member attended a national tourism trends conference in St. Paul. Member summarized information and shared it with other Members as well as cooperators.

Forest Ecosystem Management Conference, Sault St. Marie, Michigan. 5 Members presented a display on AmeriCorps efforts to promote sustainable, natural resource based economic development in Minnesota. Members took part in 40 hour training session on developing landscape level planning for sustainability as well as discussions on how to involve communities in sustainable development efforts.

Minnesota Rural Development Council. Facilitated and participated in initial meeting of Rural Development Council. 5 Members

Senior Citizens. How to work with elderly volunteers. 1 Member

Logger education workshop. 1 Member 1 Day.

Bandsaw Mill Clinic. Learned about technologies to reduce waste. 1 Member, 1 day.

Nemadji River Basin Conference. Learned about efforts to protect watersheds from excessive runoff and resulting soil erosion. 1 Member, 1 Day

Woody Riparian Buffer Site Selections. Member accompanied experts for 2 days to develop increased understanding of criterion for selecting sites

for woody riparian buffers.

Training: West Virginia

ISTEA. Enhancing tourism using ISTEA funds. 1 Member, 2 Days.

Geographic Information Systems and GPS Technology. 1 Member, 1 Day.

League of Minnesota Cities Annual Convention. 1 Member, 1 Day. Learned about economic development problems facing MN cities.

(c) Community Building/Strengthening Objectives:

Service: Minnesota

Youth Service Day, St. Paul. Joined all AmeriCorps Members in MN on Youth Service Day. Cleaned Phalen Park. All MN Members.

Virginia Community Development Group. 1 Member assisted planting flowers and other community beautification activities.

Hybrid Poplar Planting. 4 Members worked 1 day assisting RC&D plant hybrid poplar plantation to be used as a demonstration for those considering planting them on their farms.

Urban/Rural Outdoor Learning Experience, Audubon Center, Sandstone, MN. Brought together 10 inner city youths (Minneapolis) and ten rural youths for a 2 day outdoor educational experience. Activities included education on water ecology, raptors. Group challenge activities/team building exercises were conducted. Great success! More important than the environmental education was the trust and understanding that developed between youths from radically different cultures. Ultimate measure of success was that when departing youths were exchanging names and phone numbers. 4 Members worked 2 days.

Minnesota Rural Development Council. Members presented display on AmeriCorps Rural Development opportunities in MN as well as facilitating initial organizational meeting of council. 4 Members, 3 days.

Regional Arbor Day Events. Taught 4th graders on how trees conserve energy. 1 Member, 1 Day.

Park Point Beach Erosion Control Project. 4 Members worked 2 days planting trees along highly erodible beach on Lake Superior.

13. Other Accomplishments this Quarter: None to report.

14. Unique successes or great stories:

In West Virginia, we focused on one large service project this quarter. A middle school in Braxton County, West Virginia had been trying to develop a "nature trail" nearby the school in order to facilitate environmental education instruction. Although many groups were interested in helping out, it just never seemed to happen. Michelle Lassige, one of our Members placed with the WV Division of Forestry in nearby Gassaway heard about the project and approached the school. It appeared to be a big job.

The project included clearing and constructing interpretive nature trails, building a large wooden foot bridge over a river, hanging bird and bat boxes, and identifying and labeling plants/trees along the way.

Through Michelle's outstanding leadership, many cooperators were brought on board. Cooperators included the Elk Soil Conservation District, Braxton County Board of Education, Mon Power Company, WV Division of Natural Resources, WV Bureau of Commerce, WV Division of Forestry, West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service, Mountain RC&D, UDSA NRCS, Consolidated Farm Service Agency, local businesses and the Braxton County Middle School Conservation Club.

During a recent visit to WV in June, Chief of the Forest Service Jack Ward Thomas, S&PF leader Joan Comanor, and several state foresters viewed this cooperative effort and commented very favorably.

Future plans are to link this trail with two nearby trails in order to create a very large natural learning center. Plans are being made to bring teachers from throughout WV to this site in order to train them in teaching methodologies relating to environmental education.

15. **Primary Challenges Encountered this Quarter:** None to Report

16. **National Identity Activities this Quarter:** None to Report

17. **Significant Program Changes this Quarter:** None to Report.

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