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AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM INFORMATION FS REGION 8

Proposal Summary

This proposal describes how AmeriCorps participants could be utilized to provide needed services to rural communities in South Carolina, the Mississippi Delta Region and in the Appalachian region. Some of the AmeriCorps participants may live in the communities they serve, others may come from areas outside the region representing a diversity of participants. The purpose of providing AmeriCorps participants through the Rural Community Assistance Program will be to provide needed skills to assist communities to become self-sufficient and maintain diverse economies. The theme of the Rural Community Assistance Program is to "Help People Help Themselves".

Particular skills needed to accomplish this goal include the following:

- Leadership
- Planning
- Implementation (persons to put the plans into action, serve as catalyst)
- Technology Transfer (replicating success)
- Outreach (making contacts with communities, asking what they need)
- Educational (trainers and specialists)
- Partnership Development (collaborating, sharing resources)
- Infrastructure (Wood in Transportation)

Site	objectives	AmeriCorps	FS Corp. $ FY
SC	Leadership & Econ. Dev.	**2**	**0**
MS Delta	Recycling	2	0
	Wood in Transportation	2	0
	Leadership & Econ. Dev.	6	
		10	
Appalachian	Leadership & Econ. Dev.	**4**	
		16	**1000**

with rural sociologists and other experts in these fields to develop and disseminate this information. Additionally a study could address the social changes needed to improve the economy of the region and begin implementation plans for practical solutions.

The Black Belt studies initiated at North Carolina State University could provide opportunities to implement social changes needed to improve the economy of the region. A graduate student could utilize this opportunity to prepare a thesis and develop implementation plans for practical solutions.

Projected Accomplishments:

Emphasis on this location is on Outreach efforts for all three (3) projects. Twenty-nine (29) counties in three (3) states will be contacted. Desired outcomes are (3) Wood in Transportation fabrication projects serving multi-county areas, (5) recycling initiatives, and (12) economic development and leadership workshops.

Appalachia (TN, KY, GA, VA, WV, NC)

Rural Tourism:

Rural tourism efforts have been underway in this region featuring recreational and aesthetic opportunities. Local partners have needs for tour guides with interpretive skills, recreation planners, tourism surveys, and marketing. The AmeriCorps participant would work directly with government and non-profit organizations such as Appalachian Regional Commission to provide these skills and services to local communities and the region in general.

Economic Development Coordinators:

Another need identified in this area is to hire professional Economic Development Coordinators who would seek business development opportunities for an area. Business students could work with these professionals and local communities. Environmental students could work in these areas to identify issues of environmental concern with related new business ventures.

AmeriCorps participants could work with State Rural Development Councils to identify needs and target projects. Communities with demonstrated need, based on demographic and census data, would be contacted. AmeriCorps specialists would be assigned to projects depending on identified needs and priorities.

Prior to placement, the AmeriCorps volunteer would receive training in sustainable economic and leadership principles. Existing training modules and consultant services would be utilized to provide training and materials for field application. Participating communities will identify a community contact person who will work directly them.

Wood Utilization:

Working with state forestry organizations, an opportunities exists for an AmeriCorps participant to work with professional Wood Utilization Foresters. The objective would be to promote alternative wood products and value added manufacturing technologies.
Working under the direction of the State Forester, this AmeriCorps participant would provide technology transfer to local commonties as requested. One potential customer would be the RC&D councils in developing Forestry Measure Plans. Another activity would be assistance to the state utilization forester in marketing, analysis and training in forest products, conservation, and recycling.

Projected Accomplishments:

Desired outcomes will be to assist (6) government and/or non-profit organizations in implementation of existing and proposed local initiatives.

West Virginia

Program Summary:

AmeriCorps - Rural Development Corps
Developing Sustainable Economies in West Virginia Communities

Needs to be Met

Environment

Development of community-based sustainable economic development strategies using renewable natural resources in ways that protect and enhance the environment is the primary need to be met by this program. Corps members will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives, provide technical assistance in analyzing these alternatives, and work with community and business leaders to implement essential projects that lead to sustainable economic activity. Corps members will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities.
Corps members will provide technical support in a wide variety of areas to existing rural businesses and entrepreneurs wishing to start businesses. Activities will focus on enhancing production of value-added products from forest resources, helping rural communities capitalize on travel and tourism opportunities, developing businesses based on recycled products, and-Supporting development of community-based economic development organizations.

Education

Corp members will be working in a mentored environment where professional Forest Service and State Forester's staff provide guidance and direction. Training will focus on developing interpersonal skills, collaborative planning skills, group involvement skills, consensus building skill, and meeting management skills. Corp members will be utilizing their technical skills in a real world environment. They will learn much about the decision-making process in rural communities and how to help diverse groups reach consensus on difficult issues.

Human Needs

Corp members will become part of a team effort to assist rural communities in making informed decisions as citizens identify, develop and implement sustainable economic development strategies. Corps members will be asked to apply their technical skills in real world situations which will affect the future of the communities in which they work. This involvement at the local level will familiarize Corp members with the resources, needs, and aspirations of rural communities and increase their awareness of rural people. These efforts will improve the decision-making capabilities of the Corps members, and provide new experiences to broaden their cultural awareness. Corps member activities are expected to have a significant positive impact on the economy of rural West Virginia. The technical expertise that Corps members will bring to bear in assisting existing businesses will help them become more competitive in both domestic and international markets. Targeted market research

efforts will identify new products, business development efforts will improve the use of technology, updated management systems, improved advertising/sales techniques, and worker training programs implemented on-site will help improve business profitability and competitiveness. Business growth, job creation, and increased opportunities for value-added manufacturing opportunities will result. Corps members will also support the development of home-based and micro-businesses. Corps members will help prepare business plans, assist in the preparation of financing packages, assist in grantwriting, and develop micro-loan programs in rural communities to help generate successful small businesses.

Program Design

Corps members will be living in Morgantown, WV and working throughout the State. Rental housing assistance is available through the West Virginia University housing placement service. Travel and per them expenses will be paid when overnight travel is required. when project work requires extended travel periods, arrangements have been made for housing at State Parks and college campuses throughout the State.

Program Elements

Self-confidence and practical experience in project planning, group process, consensus building, team work, multi-cultural awareness, and in natural resource based sustainable economic development will be gained from this program. work experience will involve a variety of technical efforts done in conjunction with a variety of partners. This includes designing, producing, mailing and analyzing five broad-based surveys aimed at a determining community needs such as improvement in manufacturing base, market characteristics, demographics, etc. These will provide the basis for 15 needs assessments, one for each of the 15 counties served. From these, about 30 market research projects will be undertaken with new and existing businesses looking at what these companies are producing and what they are capable of producing, what new sales opportunities may exist or be potentially available. These will lead the development of about 15 business plans. Five infrastructure improvement projects will be planned, and designed aimed at transportation facilities, industrial and building facilities such as dust control systems, timber bridges and multi-modal transportation facilities. Ten worker training programs will be designed and implemented. These will address employment and management needs. Approximately 15 financing plans will be developed for small businesses, and 10 revolving loan funds will be established. Ten community foundations will be established and 15 counties will be given grantwriting assistance. Additional work experience will be gained in group decision-making, consensus building, and grass roots planning processes.

Recruitment Goals

Our primary recruitment goal is to identify college students from rural West Virginia that are enrolled as juniors, seniors, or graduate students in West Virginia colleges or universities, or students from West Virginia that are attending out-of-state schools, that wish to gain appropriate job experience. Contacts have been developed with administrative offices at schools in West Virginia and with high school counselors throughout the State to identify

likely candidates. We will also contact 1890 Schools to determine student interest in participating in this program. We hope to create a diverse crew workforce through these strategies.

Administering organization

The USDA Forest Service's Northeastern Area will be the administering organization. Currently, we hire many summer interns for a variety of activities. This program will be an extension of that effort. Our emphasis to provide practical experience within the framework of community-based economic development. Such practical experience should improve the employability of the Corps members. This practical experience will be supported by specific training designed to meet the needs of the Corps members in working with community-based economic development.

Program Partners

The program will be run in cooperation with a variety of partners. These partners will assist in planning, coordination, training, implementation, and monitoring the program. These program partners are:

The West Virginia Rural Development Council
The West Virginia Development Office
The West Virginia Division of Forestry
The Appalachian Hardwood Center at West Virginia University
Northeastern Forest Experiment Station
Small Business Development Centers
Business and NBA programs at West Virginia colleges and universities
West Virginia Division of Tourism
Cooperative Extension Service
West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Program
West Virginia county governments

West Virginia

Program Summary:

AmeriCorps - Rural Development Corps
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Needs to be Met

Environment

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Human Needs

Corp members will become part of a team effort to assist rural communities in making informed decisions as citizens identify, develop and implement sustainable economic development strategies. Corps members will be asked to apply their technical skills in real world situations which will affect the future of the communities in which they work. This involvement at the local level will familiarize Corp members with the resources, needs, and aspirations of rural communities and increase their awareness of rural people. These efforts will improve the decision-making capabilities of the Corps members, and provide new experiences to broaden their cultural awareness. Corps member activities are expected to have a significant positive impact on the economy of rural West Virginia. The technical expertise that Corps members will bring to bear in assisting existing businesses will help them become

more competitive in both domestic and international markets. Targeted market research efforts will identify new products, business development efforts will improve the use of technology, updated management systems, improved advertising/sales techniques, and worker training programs implemented on-site will help improve business profitability and competitiveness. Business growth, job creation, and increased opportunities for value-added manufacturing opportunities will result. Corps members will also support the development of home-based and micro-businesses. Corps members will help prepare business plans, assist in the preparation of financing packages, assist in grantwriting, and develop micro-loan programs in rural communities to help generate successful small businesses.

Program Design

Corps members will be living in Morgantown, WV and working throughout the State. Rental housing assistance is available through the West Virginia University housing placement service. Travel and per them expenses will be paid when overnight travel is required. when project work requires extended travel periods, arrangements have been made for housing at State Parks and college campuses throughout the State.

Program Elements

Self-confidence and practical experience in project planning, group process, consensus building, team work, multi-cultural awareness, and in natural resource based sustainable economic development will be gained from this program. work experience will involve a variety of technical efforts done in conjunction with a variety of partners. This includes designing, producing, mailing and analyzing five broad-based surveys aimed at a determining community needs such as improvement in manufacturing base, market characteristics, demographics, etc. These will provide the basis for 15 needs assessments, one for each of the 15 counties served. From these, about 30 market research projects will be undertaken with new and existing businesses looking at what these companies are producing and what they are capable of producing, what new sales opportunities may exist or be potentially available. These will lead the development of about 15 business plans. Five infrastructure improvement projects will be planned, and designed aimed at transportation facilities, industrial and building facilities such as dust control systems, timber bridges and multi-modal transportation facilities. Ten worker training programs will be designed and implemented. These will address employment and management needs. Approximately 15 financing plans will be developed for small businesses, and 10 revolving loan funds will be established. Ten community foundations will be established and 15 counties will be given grantwriting assistance. Additional work experience will be gained in group decision-making, consensus building, and grass roots planning processes.

Recruitment Goals

Our primary recruitment goal is to identify college students from rural West Virginia that are enrolled as juniors, seniors, or graduate students in West Virginia colleges or universities, or students from West Virginia that are attending out-of-state schools, that wish to gain appropriate job experience. Contacts have been developed with administrative offices at

schools in West Virginia and with high school counselors throughout the State to identify likely candidates. We will also contact 1890 Schools to determine student interest in participating in this program. We hope to create a diverse crew workforce through these strategies.

Administering organization

The USDA Forest Service's Northeastern Area will be the administering organization. Currently, we hire many summer interns for a variety of activities. This program will be an extension of that effort. Our emphasis to provide practical experience within the framework of community-based economic development. Such practical experience should improve the employability of the Corps members. This practical experience will be supported by specific training designed to meet the needs of the Corps members in working with community-based economic development.

Program Partners

The program will be run in cooperation with a variety of partners. These partners will assist in planning, coordination, training, implementation, and monitoring the program. These program partners are:
The West Virginia Rural Development Council
The West Virginia Development Office
The West Virginia Division of Forestry
The Appalachian Hardwood Center at West Virginia University
Northeastern Forest Experiment Station
Small Business Development Centers
Business and NBA programs at West Virginia colleges and universities
West Virginia Division of Tourism
Cooperative Extension Service
West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Program
West Virginia county governments

Individual Site Application #26
Rural Development
South Carolina

Number of Participants:

Needs To Be Met

Most rural communities in the South Carolina are changing. Those near urban areas are experiencing the trauma of unregulated and unplanned growth. However, the majority of those rural communities are seeing gradual declines in population and a reduction in the number and variety of small businesses that make living in rural America attractive. High school and college graduates are forced to seek life careers elsewhere because their hometowns, with shrinking farm employment and episodic bursts of manufacturing employment, are no longer perceived as either exciting or viable life choices. In many areas of the South Carolina, there is a lack of reliable and up-to-date environmental information. Coupled with that is a lack of environmental knowledge by the regional residents themselves. This information gap creates a disincentive for industry to relocate into an otherwise attractive area.

The AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Solution

Rural Development Team members will furnish critical community organizing skills to groups who can apply for rural water and waste programs. These community organizational skills will help rural residents organize themselves into such things as non-profit organizations, improvement districts, or even municipalities so that these entities can more easily leverage funding necessary to build diversified communities. A key organizational component will be to seek out and assist disenfranchised and low-income residents and help establish them as participants in the larger community.

RDT members will work to implement the new Empowerment Zone & Enterprise Community Initiative by serving as resident community and rural development experts in each designated community. They will work with economically and socially disadvantaged rural residents to use appropriate programs through cooperative efforts with other USDA agencies, and collaborate with all Federal, State, local, private sector and not-for profit organizations to help diversify local economies. RDT members will be on-site to establish themselves as small business planning developers and information brokers with FmHA, ACS, AMS and other market-oriented organizations to assist in the assessment and development of markets for unique local products.

By filling the environmental information gap, efforts at rural business expansion and retention would be facilitated, thereby decreasing unemployment and reliance on transfer payments as a major economic contributor. Environmental learning and outreach centers will better prepare rural residents of the region to make decisions on the environmental effects of any development projects that they are considering as partial solutions to the overall development mix.

Individual Site Application #27
Rural Development
Mississippi Delta (AK, LA, MS)

Number of Participants:

Needs To Be Met

The three states of the Mississippi Delta Region comprise a list of the three states that traditionally appear at the lower end of most every organization's ranking chart for economic and social indicators. The majority of rural Delta communities are seeing gradual declines in population and a reduction in the number and variety of small businesses that make living in rural America attractive. High school and college graduates are forced to seek life careers elsewhere because their hometowns, with shrinking farm employment and episodic bursts of manufacturing employment, are no longer perceived as either exciting or viable life choices. Homes still linger in the Delta which have no running water. Substandard housing is epidemic. The great floods and ice storms of the past year have ravaged large portions of the vast Mississippi watersheds. Farms, homes, businesses, whole rural infrastructures have been washed away or laid waste to at the whim of Mother Nature.

The AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Solution

Rural Development Team members will furnish critical community organizing skills to Delta residents who can apply for rural development programs. These community organizational skills will help rural residents organize themselves into such things as non-profit organizations, improvement districts, or even municipalities so that these entities can more easily leverage funding necessary to build diversified communities. A key organizational component will be to seek out and assist disenfranchised and low-income residents and help establish them as participants in the larger community. Infrastructure needs will be handled through partnerships with the Forest Service, RDA, and FmHA.

RDT members will work to implement the new Empowerment Zone & Enterprise Community Initiative by serving as resident community and rural development experts in each designated community. They will work with economically and socially disadvantaged rural residents to use appropriate programs through cooperative efforts with other USDA agencies, and collaborate with all Federal, State, local, private sector and not-for profit organizations to help diversify local economies. RDT members will be on-site to establish themselves as small business planning developers and information brokers with FmHA, ACS, AMS and other market-oriented organizations to assist in the assessment and development of markets for unique local products.

Some of the individual project descriptions already identified follow this section and cover efforts from water quality and water supply to economic diversification and data base construction.

Individual Site Application #28
Rural Development
Great Lakes (MI, OH)

Number of participants:

Needs To Be Met

The AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Solution

Great Lakes Americorps Project

The Great Lakes Americorps Projects would employ 20 participants in Ohio and Michigan. The focus of the project is improving and protecting water quality.

Mission Statement:
To safeguard water quality on farmsteads dependent on individual sources of ground and surface water, and to improve water quality in an intensely used urban/rural watershed.

Community Service Environment Objective:

A. Assist farmers in southwest Michigan and the Saginaw Bay area assess potential sources of surface and groundwater contamination and provide them with solutions and preventative techniques,

B. Establish riparian buffer strips along Darby Creek, assist in the control of dumping, littering and toxics, and update and accuracy check environmental maps.

C. Work with local governmental entities such as conservation districts and county engineers on surveying, designing, and implementing Best Management Practices and with established programs that protect a scenic river.

Participant Development Objective:

A. Focus recruitment on minority and Native American youth and provide them with real world job experiences.

B. Provide training in several aspects of natural resource and watershed management, equipping the participants with skills which are marketable in the private sector.

C. Expose participants to a wide range of public and private organizations and enhance their communications ability.

Community Building Objective:

A. Decrease out-migration, which ran as high as 8 percent during the 11980's, and unemployment, currently averaging between 9 and 10 percent in portions of the targeted area.

B. Assist public health efforts by protecting drinking water in an area with both high aquifer vulnerability and intensive pesticide and fertilizer application.

C. Protect a unique ecological area and assist communities in achieving sustainable development in urbanizing areas.

Needs

The Michigan portion of the project is centered in a region in the southwest portion of the state. This is the area where people and agriculture are most closely integrated. It encompasses the Saginaw Bay area.

Seventy percent of Michigan's animal agriculture is located here, and pesticide and fertilizer applications are intense. Because of soils and geology, the area has the state's most vulnerable aquifer and is highly susceptible to groundwater contamination.

Fourteen Americorps participants would work in Michigan.

In Ohio, the project centers in the Darby Creek Watershed. It contains portions of six counties and is within a 20 minute drive of downtown Columbus. There are numerous small rural communities in the area, and in total, nearly one million people have access to, or reside within, the watershed. There are urban and rural poor within the watershed as well as limited resource families.

Darby Creek's ecology is unique and the Nature Conservancy has a bioreserve located within it. The area has also been targeted for special water quality efforts by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and numerous surveys and critical areas have been identified. A special need exists in the urbanizing areas to help ensure development does not effect the aquatic ecosystem of Darby Creek. Six Americorps participants would work in the watershed area.

In both Michigan and Ohio chronic unemployment and out-migration of young people continue as problems.

Process

Michigan's efforts will focus on implementing the Farm*A*Syst program - getting farmers to evaluate their impact on water quality and develop a plan for reducing that impact.

Under Farm*A*Syst, the Americorps participants will serve as facillitators working one-on-one with agricultural producers. In each case the entire farming operation will be evaluated under a standardized outline. Items such as chemical and fertilizer usage, amounts, timing, application rates, mixing areas, and storage techniques will be assessed. Wellhead areas will be identified and protection measures offered. Other items such as crop rotations and animal waste considerations are also addressed as part of the Farm*A*Syst assessment.

All 1 4 Michigan participants will work on Farm*A*Syst evaluations, and it is anticipated that each participant will be able to work with 200 farmers during the course of one year.

In Ohio, six participants will help carry out conservation work within the Darby Creek Watershed. Two will work at the task of keeping field maps updated and work in the field to check map accuracy and inventory tributaries.

Two will assist the Soil and Water Conservation District do survey and design work for conservation Best Management Practices in the rural areas. They will also work with county engineers in checking Best Management Practices in urbanizing areas.

One individual will assist with the existing Turn Key Program and help establish riparian corridor buffers strips along Darby Creek. The final participant will assist the Scenic River Coordinator at the field level as a river keeper,

Design Concept

The project is designed to improve and protect water quality. The two areas chosen have environmental and social problems common to many sections of the country. As such, they would be replicable.

The project is also designed to put the participants at the field level in real world job situations. As watershed management and water quality projects become more accepted, this is where future employment opportunities will lie. As a result, the experience the participants obtain will be of real value to them in the private sector job market.

Activities

In Michigan, implementing the Farm*A*Syst program will require daily interaction with agricultural producers. Participants will be work under the guidance of either Extension Service or Soil Conservation Service

personnel. Their job will be to provide direct, one-on-one assistance to farmers using the Farm*A*Syst outline. As part of their work, they will also be able to direct farmers to Federal, state or local agencies and organizations that could provide additional help.

In Ohio, a variety of different conservation tasks will be accomplished by participants - from mapping, to surveying, to design, to implementation. Specifically, participants will be involved with carrying out components of the Darby Creek Hydrologic Unit Proposal and the Nature Conservancy's Darby Bioreserve Plan. In addition, participants will assist the county engineers in Madison and Union counties with Best Management Practices on urbanizing land.

Training

Each participant will be provided basic job orientation and community awareness training by the Soil Conservation Service, the Extension Service, or a cooperating partner.

In Michigan, the Farm*A*Syst form and format are for the most part self-explanatory and a highly technical background is not needed, Specialists from the Michigan State University Extension Service and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service will provide the necessary training and guidance.

Similarly, no special skills are needed in Ohio. The necessary training there will be provided by the Soil Conservation Service, the A. B. Graham Center, Ohio State University, and the Darby Agricultural Coordinator.

In both states, participants will receive in-house structured training along with on-site, supervised training.

Additional specific task-related training will be offered by the appropriate cooperating partner to assure that the job and the individual are matched. Follow-up of each participant will be done by the project director to determine additional training needs and/or help. This followup will also help the participant focus on career choices and provide guidance for additional formal training.

Activities

Participants in the Great Lakes Water Quality project will be engaged in environmental protection and restoration on a daily basis.

In Michigan, a typical day might include visiting a row crop farm, a dairy, a confined livestock facility, or some combination of the preceding.

Individual Site Application #29
Rural Development
Minnesota

Number of Participants:

Needs To Be Met

Environment

Development of community-based sustainable economic development strategies using renewable natural resources in ways that protect and enhance the environment is the primary need to be met by this program. Corps members will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives, provide technical assistance in analyzing these alternatives, and work with community and business leaders to implement essential projects that lead to sustainable economic activity. Corps members will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities.
Corps members will provide technical support in a wide variety of areas to existing rural businesses and entrepreneurs wishing to start businesses. Activities will focus on enhancing production of value-added products from forest resources, helping rural communities capitalize on travel and tourism opportunities, developing businesses based on recycled products, and supporting development of community-based economic development organizations.

Education

Corps members will be working **in** a mentored environment where professional Forest Service and State Forester's staff provide guidance and direction. Training will focus on developing interpersonal skills, collaborative planning skills, group involvement skills, consensus building skill, and meeting management skills. Corps members will be utilizing their technical skills in a real world environment. They will learn much about the decision-making process in rural communities and how to help diverse groups reach consensus on difficult issues.

Human Needs

Corps members will become part of a team effort to assist rural communities in making informed decisions as citizens identify, develop and implement sustainable economic development strategies. Corps members will be asked to apply their technical skills in real world situations which will affect the future of the communities in which they work. This involvement at the local level will familiarize Corps members with the resources, needs, and aspirations of rural communities and increase their awareness of rural people. These efforts will improve the decision-making capabilities of the Corps members, and provide new experiences to broaden their cultural awareness. Corps member activities are expected to have a significant positive impact on the economy of rural West Virginia. The technical expertise that Corps members will bring to bear in assisting existing businesses will help them become more competitive in both domestic and international markets. Targeted market research efforts will identify new products, business development efforts will improve the use of

technology, updated management systems, improved advertising/sales techniques, and worker training programs implemented on-site will help improve business profitability and competitiveness. Business growth, job creation, and increased opportunities for value-added manufacturing opportunities will result. Corps members will also support the development of home-based and micro-businesses. Corps members will help prepare business plans, assist in the preparation of financing packages, assist in grantwriting, and develop micro-loan programs in rural communities to help generate successful small businesses.

Program Design

Corps members will be living in the St. Paul area and working throughout the state. Rental housing assistance is available through the University of Minnesota housing placement service. Travel and per them expenses will be paid when overnight travel is required. When project work requires extended travel periods, arrangements have been made for housing at State Parks and college campuses throughout the State.

Program Elements

Self-confidence and practical experience in project planning, group process, consensus building, team work, multi-cultural awareness, and in natural resource based sustainable economic development will be gained from this program. Work experience will involve a variety of technical efforts done in conjunction with a variety of partners. This includes designing, producing, mailing and analyzing five broad-based surveys aimed at a determining community needs such as improvement in manufacturing base, market characteristics, demographics, etc. These will provide the basis for 18 needs assessments, one for each of the 18 counties served. From these, about 36 market research projects will be undertaken with new and existing businesses looking at what these companies are producing and what they are capable of producing, what new sales opportunities may exist or be potentially available. These will lead the development of about 18 business plans. Five infrastructure improvement projects will be planned, and designed aimed at transportation facilities, industrial and building facilities such as dust control systems, timber bridges and multi-modal transportation facilities. Ten worker training programs will be designed and implemented. These will address employment and management needs. Approximately 18 financing plans will be developed for small businesses, and 10 revolving loan funds will be established. Ten community foundations will be established and 18 counties will be given grantwriting assistance. Additional work experience will be gained in group decision-making, consensus building, and grass roots planning processes.

Self-confidence and practical experience in project planning, group process, consensus building, team work, multi-cultural awareness, and in natural resource based sustainable economic development will be gained from this program. Work experience will involve a variety of technical efforts including needs assessments, surveys, market research, business plan development, infrastructure improvement, worker training program design and implementation, development of financing plans for small businesses, developing revolving loan funds, developing community foundations, grantwriting, and a myriad of other technical efforts needed by small rural communities. Additional work experience will be gained in

group decision-making, consensus building, and grass roots planning processes.

Recruitment Goals

Our primary recruitment goal is to identify college students from rural Minnesota that are enrolled as juniors, seniors, or graduate students in Minnesota colleges or universities, or students from Minnesota that are attending out-of-state schools, that wish to gain appropriate job experience. Contacts have been developed with administrative offices at schools in Minnesota and with high school counselors throughout the state to identify likely candidates attending colleges outside the state. We are also contact 1890 Schools to determine student interest in participating in this program. Tribal governments in the state will also be contacted to determine the availability of tribal members attending college that would benefit from this type of work experience. We hope to create a diverse Corps workforce through these strategies.

Administering organization

The USDA Forest Service's Northeastern Area will be the administering organization. Currently, we hire many summer interns for a variety of activities. This program will be an extension of that effort. Our emphasis to provide practical experience within the framework of community-based economic development. Such practical experience should improve the employability of the Corps members. This practical experience will be supported by specific training designed to meet the needs of the Corps members in working with community-based economic development.

Program Partners

The program will be run in cooperation with a variety of partners. These partners will assist in planning, coordination, training, implementation, and monitoring the program. These program partners are:

The Minnesota Rural Development Board
The Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Technology, Inc.
The University of Minnesota
North Central Forest Experiment Station
Small Business Development Centers
Natural Resources Research Institute at UM-Duluth
Iron Range Revitalization Board
Cooperative Extension Service
Upper Midwest Technology Transfer Center
Minnesota county governments

Participant Benefits

Each participant will receive:

Stipend

End of program scholarship

Room and meals

Housing subsidy

Critical work experience in their major field Transportation to and from work site

AmeriCorps Program Proposal
Minnesota

Project: Agassiz Recreational Trails (ART) Development Project.

The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources has approved $650,000.00 for use by the ART Joint Powers Board to purchase an abandoned railroad bed and develop the Agassiz Recreational Trail. The 32 mile trail will link diverse educational and recreational opportunities along the main trail located in Clay, Norman, and Polk counties of Northwest Minnesota. We will upgrade local parks for better utilization by trail users.

The ART project started as a combined effort to restore wetlands and develop 9 miles of horse back riding trails east of Twin Valley. With each planning meeting the trail increased in scope and size. As the project was submitted to the LCMR there was 103 miles of trails and five parks. At the time we submitting the LCMR work program, one of the parks had to be dropped and a 17 mile stretch of the trail south of Ada has been sold to private landowners and is lost to trail use. But, two additional parks to the north of the main trail have been requested, along with 53 additional miles of trails going into Pennington County.

Members will be recruited from colleges, universities and technical schools within a 100 mile radius of Norman County. The Twin Valley field office will contact these educational institutions to advertise for these positions. The goal for participant enrollment will be an equal number of males and females.

Training will be provided by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Board of Water and Soil Resources (EWSR) and local Soils and Water Conservation District's (SWCD). Classroom and On the Job training will be utilized. Most of the necessary training and equipment will be provided by the SCS and BWSR offices. This will reduce the overall cost of the project.

Positions:

I. Trail Development: 1 person

Work to be performed:
This person will perform maintenance on the trail. This includes
placement of new signs repairing existing signs, treeplanting, erecting nesting boxes for **birds** and disposing **of waste** in trash containers along the trail.

2. Community Outreach: 1 person

Work to **be performed:**
This person will work and communicate with local communities and businesses along the ART in order to promote local tourism economies. Each city council along the trail will be contacted in order to discuss how the trail could benefit the community financially and recreationally.

3. Public Relations: 2 people

Work to be performed:
These people will promote trail tourism on a regional basis within the 14 counties of Northwest Minnesota. This is for communities that wish to develop and promote their own trail systems. These individuals will encourage such new trails to tie into the ART. A Regional Trails Plan will also be developed that will cover the 14 counties of Northwest Minnesota.

4. Trails Grant Writer: 1 person (new, expanded position)

Work to be Performed:
This person will be writing grants for communities that wish to develop and finance their own trail systems. This will be on a regional basis within the 14 counties of Northwest Minnesota.

Individual Site Application #30
Rural Development
South Texas Colonias

Number of participants:

Needs To Be Met

"It's like having the third world in your own backyard." That's how one South Texas resident described the Colonias problem. "Colonias" is the name given to admittedly extremely sub-standard residential subdivisions all along the U.S./Mexican border that are mostly populated by persons of Mexican descent. The problems of colonias are not difficult to describe. What is surprising is that if you were to run through a litany of the major ills in the world, you would find most of them embodied in the colonias. Problems of inadequate shelter -- many, if not most, colonias residents own their own homes, for the most part. Many of these homes started life as a humble travel trailer and have since been added on to as many as five times, as the residents' families grew or they managed to recycle building materials or scrape up enough cash to purchase them. One distinguishing characteristic of colonias is that often the main problem is water. Few colonias residents have indoor plumbing. Luckier ones have a faucet on their property where they go to fetch water. Colonias areas are also typified by high water tables that make pit toilets or even septic systems not only impractical, but extremely hazardous to residents' and general watershed health. Endemic to these enclaves is poverty, drug abuse, and long periods of family separation as working-age males follow the migrant agricultural worker routes. As if that weren't enough, English is not a predominant language. Taken all together, these problems combine to form a complex web of social malaise that serves to disconnect colonias residents from normal social programs and typical American solutions. Despite all that, colonias residents are proud of what they have accomplished and are hoping to accomplish. Having a strong work and land ethic, many of these hardy souls consider themselves pioneers of sorts on the border frontier of the American dream.

The AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Solution

Housing, water, social services, and a full-range of developmental activities are in store for RDT members in the Colonias region. Volunteers will organize communities to apply for, operate, and maintain water and sewer systems and housing projects that will raise their communities to new standards. AmeriCorps volunteers will begin organizing residents into unified social structures that will capitalize on the strengths of "those who remain behind" to establish home-based businesses, work-at-home programs, cooperatives that knit the individual efforts together into a true economic and market force. The volunteers will be a unifying force for change in the Rio Grande Valley as they provide a major liaison role for the communities and social service agencies that exist. These volunteers will serve as the focal point of the mighty federal engine at the local-action level where true reinvention of government will take place. The goal is to position colonias residents as a grassroots vanguard of the NAFTA revolution.

Individual Site Application #31
Rural Development
Four Corners (UT, AZ, CO, NM)

Number of participants:

Needs To Be Met

The Four Corners region of the United States is a vast, sparse populated area of tremendous diversity and spectacular beauty. The region is at the heart of an ongoing struggle to create a sensitive balance between the need to protect and sustain the environment, and the need to provide a sound economic base for the area's residents. This proposal will provide for action which will ultimately help develop that balance.

The area has a population of approximately 441,000 people and covers an area of about 83,000 square miles. The project includes an area about 250 miles in circumference from where the four states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah join together. There are 12 population centers ranging in size from a few hundred to several thousand persons. The rural population is widely dispersed, with many areas having poor accessibility.

This region is one of the most economically distressed areas in the Nation. Per-capita income is less than $5,000. About 53 percent of the Navajo Nation's population lives below the poverty level. Unemployment ranges as high as 28%. Unemployment is generally high on all the Indian reservations in the area. About 42 percent of the area's population are members of the Hopi, Navajo, Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, White Mesa Ute or Zuni tribes.

The AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Solution

Four USDA agencies (Rural Development Administration, Farmers Home Administration, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service) have joined forces to provide a full-service rural development experience for the region. Fifty-six RDT positions have been identified that span nearly all of the possible features of a comprehensive approach to regional rural development. In addition to RDT programmatic features of Housing, Water Systems, and Rural Business Development, the two attached specific and targeted projects round out the regional mix.

SCS FOUR CORNERS
REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Where Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico & Utah join together.

Submitted by: SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE and THE FOUR CORNERS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREAS:

HUB RC&D AREA, INC. (New Mexico)
SAN JUAN RC&D AREA, INC. (Colorado)
CASTLELAND RC&D AREA, INC. (Utah)
LITTLE COLORADO RIVER PLATEAU RC&D AREA, INC. (Arizona)

SUMMARY

This proposal has been jointly prepared by the RC&D coordinators of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah with assistance from conservation district leaders in Arizona and Colorado and RC&D Council members. It addresses the large scale rural development needs of the region.

The Four Corners Region includes some of the most remote and spectacular scenery in the United States. It also includes population with high joblessness and poverty rates. Natural resource conservation needs are significant and contribute to depressed economy.

The concept provides for team approaches to addressing key problems common to each state in there region. A need for 20 AmeriCorps participants has been identified. These people would be distributed in functional teams.

Specifically, the proposal addresses the need to inventory existing human and natural resources for the purpose of determining possible new and innovative natural resource based industry potential. The proposal further provides for the seeking of funds to establish these industries. In addition, proposal addresses the need to assist limited resource farmers (especially Native Americans) to develop sustainable small scale agricultural systems leading to improved nutrition, increased income and employment, and a quality environment. Finally, the proposal includes an element of education and information directed toward helping area citizens (and others) understand benefits and costs associated with environmental and economic choices currently being made.

NEEDS

The Four Corners region of the United States is a vast, sparse populated area of tremendous diversity and spectacular beauty. The region is at the heart of an ongoing.struggle to create a sensitive balance between the need to protect and sustain the environment, and the need to provide a sound economic base for the areas residents. This proposal will provide for action which will ultimately help develop that balance.

The area has a population of approximately 441,000 people and covers an area of about 83,000 square miles. The project includes an area about 250 miles in circumference from where the four states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah join together. There are 12 population centers ranging in size from a few hundred to several thousand persons. The rural population is widely dispersed, with many areas having poor accessibility.

This region is one of the most economically distressed areas in the Nation. Per-capita income is less than $5,000. About 53 percent of the Navajo Nation's population lives below the poverty level. Unemployment ranges as high as 28%. Unemployment is generally high on all the Indian reservations in the area. About 42 percent of the areas population are members of the Hopi, Navajo, Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, White Mesa Ute or Zuni tribes.

MISSION & OBJECTIVES

MISSION:

The mission of the Four Corners Resource Conservation and Development Councils is to accelerate the conservation, development, and utilization of natural and human resources to improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment, and standard of living.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop an inventory of existing natural resources and determine the feasibility of developing new and innovative natural resources based industries with possible value-added potential.

2. Seek grant funds to provide for the establishment of feasible new industries.

3. Assist small scale, limited resource farmers in developing sustainable agricultural systems for the purpose of improving family nutrition, increasing income, expanding employment, and maintaining a quality environment.

4. Conduct an information and education program for the purpose of helping area residents understand the costs and benefits of environmental and economic choices currently being made.

DESIGN

Activities to Address the Needs

This proposal will demonstrate the ability to achieve the goals of AmeriCorps and the Soil Conservation Service by demonstrating innovation, replicability, and sustainability.

A. Concept

The project concept is to utilize skilled teams of AmeriCorps participants in each of the four states working closely with established agencies and organizations currently dealing with rural development issues related to natural resources and the environment. Each of the major

components of the project; inventorying, determining industry potential, small scale agriculture, information and education, will benefit from a team of individuals whose efforts will be directed toward accomplishing specific tasks associated with the component. The project is designed to create strong partnerships with existing professionals in order to minimize replication of efforts and maximize existing resources. The Americorps participants will be housed with and supervised **by** existing agency personnel. The proposal is design such that the citizens and environment of the Four Corners region will benefit by the synergistic effect created by the partnership. The number of AmeriCorps participants required for the project is 20.

The project will be administered in each of the four states by RC&D Councils in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service. Each Council is a nonprofit organization consisting of 20 to 24 local sponsors. Sponsors include area communities, counties, Native American Nations, Council of Governments, and Soil Conservation Districts. Each Council has a full time coordinator provided them by the Soil Conservation Service. The broad makeup of the Councils ensures that they deal with concerns at the grassroots level and makes possible the creation of effective partnerships between a wide variety of entities in order to address key concerns.

The project will require cooperation among many partners. Project partners will include each RC&D Council (one per state total of 4), the Soil Conservation Districts, local units of government, councils of Government, the Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Native American Nations

Each RC&D Council has a long range plan with a community or rural development objective. Utilization of AmeriCorps participants accelerate the implementation of Councils objectives.

B. Service Activities

Data Inventory and Industry Potential Analysis. This project will inventory natural resources and socioeconomic data in the region. A project team will be utilized to identify natural resources and new technologies with potential for development. This will involve detailed literature research to determine characteristics of the resource and its value-added potential. The most promising industries will be prioritized and additional work will be done to identify potential markets. This data will then be used for feasibility studies and grant applications to establish natural resource based industries in the region which will improve the employment base.

Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to conduct literature reviews and summarize data, prepare questionnaire for needs assessment, interview key informants on the telephone and in person, gather economic data and enter into a database.
Finally, be a team member to prepare grant applications.

Small Scale Agriculture Development. This project is designed to accelerate small scale agriculture primarily with the Native Americans nations in the region. It addresses the need to improve Native American nutrition and increase employment and per capita income on Indian reservations in the region. In partnership with local organizations, a team of specialists will

provide intensive training to partnership agencies and facilitate training workshops to reach large numbers of people in remote areas. Training would include small animal production, gardening, preserving products for future use and related activities. A team of five persons would be utilized to service the region.

Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to provide training in their specialty area, organize small groups to conduct this training. AmeriCorps participants with marketing or business administration will assist in establishing a marketing cooperative to sell excess products.

Natural Resources Inventory. This inventory would include soils, rangeland, woodland, wildlife land, riparian and wetlands, cultural resources sites, water resources, land use and ownership. The inventory would be digitized into a GIS format. A public information specialist will be used to keep local residents apprised of progress and to provide information on potential uses of the inventory data.

Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to gather data in the field. Data will be placed on maps under the direction of a natural resource professional. Data will then be entered into a GIS system.

Information and Education. This project would develop and implement a communications plan for internal and external audiences. Educational materials would be targeted to citizens in the Four Corners region. Topics will reflect the need for strong resource conservation and development to increase the economic viability of the region. Project activities will include press releases, speakers bureau, static displays, and other appropriate mediums.

Typical activities of AmeriCorps participants will be to research and write press releases for newsletters and the general media and make contact with media representatives in each community.

Participant Training and Support

Training would include orientation to the RC&D program, participation in conferences and seminars in the region, and intensive on the job experience. Each RC&D Coordinator will provide direct training for needed skills to accomplish job assignment. Colleges and universities will be utilized for specialized training as feasible. Every effort will be made to integrate into the participants academic program experience and training to facilitate the school-to-work transition.

Participant Placement and Supervision.

Recruitment. In addition to the national pool, recruitment will focus on the colleges located in the four corners region and the employment and outreach agencies of the Indian tribes and JPTA. Recruitment will also be done through appropriate state and local agencies. SCS special emphasis program managers in each state will be involved in the search. Emphasis will be made to recruit from schools with significant populations of Native Americans.

When recruiting, we will seek out AmeriCorps participants of different ages, races, genders, ethnicities, abilities and disabilities or economic backgrounds. Also, we will seek students from public and private schools.

AmeriCorps participants should have some college level work within the professional type positions. College graduates would be highly desirable. High school graduates would be appropriate for certain technical and clerical positions. In general, AmeriCorps participants should meet the requirements for a GS-5 entry level positions for the professional disciplines listed. Types of positions desired include rural sociologist, business administration specialist, marketing specialist, economist, agriculture education, horticulturist, agronomist, home economics specialist, public affairs specialists and clerk.

Supervision. RC&D coordinators at each RC&D office will provide direct supervision to participants. When participants are assigned to work with project partners, adequate supervision arrangements will be established. The work assignment will be agreed to prior to beginning work.

Placement. The placement of participants in each location follows:

Activity	Castleland	HUB	Colorado		Little San Juan
Industry Potential	2	2	2	2	
Small Scale Ag			5		
Natural Resource Inv.				3	
Information & Education	1	1	1	1	

SCS 4-Corners Regional Agency/Community Collaboration Project

SPARCS
"Strengthening Partnerships for Active Rural Communities"

Prior to the initiation of the SPARCS collaboration, Regions 2,3, and 4 were actively working with many partners in the 4 Corners area, including a dozen Community Action Teams, and projects with the Navajo, Zuni and iicarilla Apache tribes. The intent of SPARCS was to build on the existing partnerships, as well as initiate actions that are of regional scope for the entire 4-Corners area that have broad-based community support. Our desire under the Americorps program, is to strongly support both our longer term partnerships at the individual community level, as well as to accelerate the projects identified in the last six months within the SPARCS process.

The 4 Corners Site is defined for the Americorps proposal as the lands contained within the boundaries of the 4 RC&D areas that touch at the 4 Corners Monument. Included within the area are the lands or influence zones of the San Juan, Rio Grande, Manti-La Sal, Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

SPARCS projects are exploring past, present and future directions and methods of organizational collaboration among federal and state agencies and local communities. The 4-Corners area was chosen for several reasons: the area has common rural economic and social challenges based on common culture, history and geography; there are numerous federal, state, tribal and local entities with overlapping jurisdictions sharing a common desire for the economic diversification and sustainability of the region; there exists a critical mass of tribal and community support and commitment from four USDA agencies to help make something happen. Now!

The SPARCS team came together June 28-July 1, 1993 in Durango, and again in December, 1993. The team is comprised of representatives of the FS (Regions 2,3,4), SCS (4 RC&Ds), CES (4 states), the FmHA/RDA, WO reps for each agency; plus the States of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado; the Navajo Nation and Ute, Hopi and Jicarilla Apache Tribes; Colorado and New Mexico Rural Development Councils; and Councils of Government, County Commissioners, State Government and several local environmental, economic development and community groups from each of the 4 states.

SPARCS PROJECTS

Four principal SPARCS project areas emerged, with broad-based, multi-jurisdictional working groups assigned to each area:

1. <u>Development of social, economic and demographic shared data bases</u> to support sustainable economic development. Specifically these data bases are needed to establish baseline information regarding current local conditions and trends. They will be used to suggest and validate strategies for diversifying or strengthening local economies. Estimated project cost is $35,000.

Site: Four Corners SPARCs Area of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico

Americorps People: This task will be accomplished by Americorps members staffed at the locations in Region 2 and 3 as a part of overall strategy development and project implementation. Skills needed include socio-economics, data base management, electronic mail services or bulletin boards, telecommunications, facilitation and familiarity with existing state or Cooperative Extension Service data bases.

Objective:

1. Identify, locate and make available to rural communities via PC or some other electronic format, socio-demographic and economic data bases for each of the four states, which can be merged as a distinct economic region. These data bases should be able to be merged to reflect the four corner area as a distinct regional economy or disaggregated into discrete county or groups of counties. No such shared data base exists today.

2. Verify data and identify and fill in gaps at the local level.

3. Be flexible enough to serve all the inventory and analysis needs of the Four Corners Area for various studies, resource planning, grant proposal writing etc.

In-Kind Contribution:

This project would be funded thru the SPARCs initiative ($10,000-USFS funds already on deposit with Utah State University for SPARCs projects). Technical Assistance is and would continue to be provided by USFS Regional Economists for IMPLAN I/O economic modelling (in kind value of 2 GS-13 economists estimated at $8,000) and state demographers and State Universities already involved in the SPARCs initiative.

FS in-kind contribution $8,000 FS direct financial asst. $10,000 Total $18,000

2. Training for community capacity building and leadership development Site: Throughout 4-

Corners region

Americorps people-. one person with strong community/regional planning background, to be assigned to work with Sheila Knop, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.

Project description and objectives:

Through regional workshops and local seminars, increase preparedness and skill to support sustainable rural economic development, by promoting dialogue and collaborative learning activities organized around regional development concerns, such as value-added forestry, agriculture and tourism. Estimated project cost is $25,000.

In-kind contribution: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension will provide supervision and office space/support, valued at $6,000.

3. Tribal Tourism Development/4 Corners Heritage Council Site: 4-Corners area, with emphasis on tribal lands.

Americorps people: 6 personnel to be shared between the affected tribes and the 4-Corners Heritage Council. Skills needed include regional planning, community development, public or business administration, landscape architecture,
engineering, recreation planning, interpretation and environmental education.

Objectives:

All of the Tribes within the 4-Corners are pursuing tourism development as an economic development strategy. The Heritage Council was commissioned by the Governors of the four affected states with a charter to develop locally-based heritage tourism opportunities, with an emphasis on providing an economic boost to the tribes and rural communities. They have 4 mutual objectives (projects) for 1994-97:

1. Community Tourism Development Plans on the Navajo Reservation

2. Tourism / Recreation Facilities Site Plans on the Navajo Reservation.

3. Train Native American Resource Interpreters

4. Archaeological Research, Guided Tours, and Ruin Stabilization on the Ute Mtn Ute Tribal Park.

In-kind contributions: Unestimated contributions at this time.

4. FOUR CORNERS BUSINESS AND EXPANSION PROGRAM

AREA DESCRIPTION: Interested communities, counties, and Indian Tribes within the following counties: NM- San Juan, Rio Arriba, McKinnely, Sandoval, Taos Cibola, Mora. AZ- Apache, Navajo, Coconino, CO- La Plata, Archuleta, Montrose, Ouray. UT- San Juan, Garfield, Kane.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Develop a business retention and expansion (R&E) program for the Four Corners region. This program is a part of the overall SPARCS effort: a Team USDA, multi-agency, multi-state effort.
The purpose of this program is to identify and solve business problems related to survival, expansion and start-up and thereby to strengthen and/or increase economic activity. The program would require a full-time coordinator familiar with the area who would serve all the

program participants. The coordinator would work with a regional resource team comprised of representatives from the USFS, FMHA, RDA, CE, SBDC, COG's and state economic development departments and local citizens.

AMERICORPS NEEDS: One full-time coordinator and a minimum of 2 support staff. Skills in business, economic development and community planning would be required. **A** masters degree would be preferred. Cost of the program for the first year would be $200,000.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: One GS-11 or 12 to serve on the regional resource team. Approximate time involved is 15-25 days. Cost: Salary- $3200, Travel- $1500.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS WITHIN THE 4-CORNERS SITE

The following summaries from each Region describe the ongoing partnerships and projects under the RCA program, already occurring within the 4-Corners Site, that will be carried over into 1995, that would be supported **by** the placement of Americorps teams in each of the 4 states.

This proposal is jointly prepared and submitted under a multi-agency / multi jurisdictional approach to enhancing the viability of rural communities and Tribes in the Four Corners Area (Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico) through existing strategic partnerships. The Americorps program will provide an infusion of assistance into new alliances, shared visions and collaborative approaches addressing community problems and change identified by communities and Tribes in the Four Corners Area.

APPROACH:

This proposal takes advantage of existing community based planning, partnerships and networks established in the last 2 years to work with rural people, communities and Tribes to **create jobs, increase family income,** generate **community revenue, and enhance the quality of life in the Four Corners area.**

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS: Region 2

(1) Site: Colorado portion of 4-Corners area

Community - Public Lands Partnership (CPLP)

This partnership includes the municipalities and counties of Southwestern Colorado, the U.S.Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Fort Lewis College, the Colorado Dept. of Transportation, the Southwestern Colorado Travel Region, and the Four Corners Heritage Council. This partnership focuses on joint efforts between local communities, and public land agencies in areas of resource management, collaborative planning, research, economic diversification and public policy. On going projects include:

-Second Growth Pine Zone Ecosystem Mgt. Planning -R-9 (5 county) Economic Development

Plan -Regional Intermodal Transportation planning GIS inventory including San Juan Skyway. -San Juan National Forest plan revision process - collaborative planning. Linking National Forest planning and community strategic planning

The CPLP is being funded by grants from the Forest Service and Fort Lewis College Office of Community Services. technical assistance is being provided by a variety of partners and the FS.

(3) Objectives

Three corp members will be assigned to the Community-Public Lands Partnership. Skills needed will include Community/Land Use planners, economists, GIS, facilitation of processes, Tourism-Recreation planners, value added forest products and Agriculture.

See attached Region 9 Matrix of Economic Development Initiatives matrix, **By** Sector/by County.

(4) In-Kind Contribution San Juan National Forest will contribute 1-GS-12 FTE, travel and training to facilitate partnerships, work with the CPLP and Americorps Value of

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS: **Region** 3

(1) Site: ARIZONA and NEW MEXICO portions of 4-Corners area

Local Community Partnerships

These partnership includes the municipalities and counties of Northeastern Arizona, Northwestern New Mexico, the U.S.Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the New Mexico and Arizona Departments of Commerce, Tourism and Transportation, the New Mexico Rural Development Council and the Four Corners Heritage Council. The partnerships focus on joint efforts between local communities, Action Teams, Tribes and public agencies in areas of resource management, recycling, collaborative planning, research, and economic diversification. On-going efforts in 1994-95 include $408,000 in grant funds for a variety of projects throughout the New Mexico and Arizona portions of the 4-Corners:

Arizona Subtotal $149,000

Grand Total $ 488,000

(2) Americorps People

Two teams of three members each will be assigned to support the above listed projects and partnerships. One team will be assigned to northern Arizona to work through the Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests; the other team will be assigned to the Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe NF's of northwestern New Mexico. Skills needed will include community/regional planners, economists, GIS, facilitation/mediation, tourism/recreation planners, and business/cooperative development, with emphasis in value added forest products

and agriculture.

(3) Objectives — See above-listed description of partnerships and roster of on-going projects.

(4) In-Kind Contribution — The Cibola, Santa Fe, Carson, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests will supply supervision, office space/support and transportation. GS grade of RCA coordinators ranges from GS11-13. Value of in kind-- $105,000.

Direct financial assistance: $408,000

TOTAL IN KIND $ 70,000
TOTAL DIRECT $ 408,000

TIMBER BRIDGE/WOOD IN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

AREA DESCRIPTION: Commonties, counties, and Indian Tribes within the following counties: NM- San Juan, Rio Arriba, McKinnely, Sandoval, Cibola, Mora, Taos. AZ- Apache, Navajo, Coconino.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Most counties in the region have been reluctant to pursue projects under the FS TBI because of limited funding and staff support. Most counties have limited access to people with engineering skills to assist them in the development of timber bridge proposals and in the construction of the bridges. This project would involve recruitment of an engineering graduate student to assist interested counties, communities, and Indian Tribes in identifying there bridge needs, help in the development of proposals and oversee construction. The wood utilization conference scheduled to be held in Farmington, NM in the fall of 1994 will include timber bridge technology and construction as well as demonstration of the SLAM timber bridge design program. It is expected that this conference will increase interest in timber bridges. Local RC&D's in cooperation with the Forest Service will sponsor this conference.

AMERICORPS NEEDS: One full-time engineering graduate student. Skills in planning and marketing would be desirable. Cost- $50,000.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: Regional and Forest RCA and Engineering personnel: $4,000

HOPI NAVAJO COMMUNITY PLANNING

(1) Sites State of Arizona, Northeast Corner (Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservation).

(2) Americorps People One Strategic Planner (preferred) or Small Business Developer. Prefer Graduate School Level.

(3) Objectives

Community based economic planning on the Hopi and Navajo Indian Reservations, working primarily with Chapters Houses and local communities. Planning will be for tourism, small business development, and infrastructure requirements. Estimate 3 to 4 plans in progress each year for two to three years. Unemployment is currently 50 to 80% (depending on chapter or community).

Conservation Outreach Project.

To inform rural and urban residents about Soil and Water Conservation opportunities, including the accompanying Local, State and Federal regulations. To educate rural and urban residents about the value of our Soil and Water resources.

Members will be recruited from colleges, universities and technical schools within a 100 mile radius of Norman County. The Twin Valley field office will contact these educational institutions to advertise for these positions. The goal for participant enrollment will be an equal number of males and females.

Training will be provided by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and local Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD). Classroom and On the Job training will be utilized. Most of the necessary training and equipment will be provided by the SCS and BWSR offices. This will reduce the overall cost of the project.

Conservation Outreach Positions: 5 people

Work to be performed:
The conservation outreach positions will be available to the 14 counties of Northwest Minnesota including Norman County. These individuals will be contacting all the landowners/operators in a county to provide conservation education and to document conservation practices they will be selling to the landowners/operators. This is a sorely needed item in our rural communities due to the large number of agricultural programs and problems that are present. Another goal is to educate landowners/operators an the value of natural resources. This will help reduce the number of people violating natural resource regulations. Individuals will also be assisting with clerical duties involved with the office such as data entry and filing. Another goal is to conduct presentations on conservation education in local schools and organizations.

Individual Site Application #32
Rural Development
Pacific Rim (CA, WA, AK)

Number of participants:

Needs To Be Met

Rural areas of California are suffering from multiple environmental concerns and severe economic problems. The Pacific Northwest has needs to protect endangered species of wildlife, improve forest management on small land holdings, and improve economic conditions. Other rural areas are suffering competing demands for limited water, and they need water quality and conservation improvement. Small farmers with limited resources and of various ethnic groups need help with farming methods and resource protection.

In Alaska, many communities are connected to each other only by river in summer, dogsled and snow machine trails in the winter, and expensive air service all year long. The indigenous people adapted to this vast, harsh land centuries ago by hunting, gathering, and fishing for food, clothing, and shelter materials. People continue to live off the land and this lifestyle is defined as "subsistence" by today's society.

A mixed-bag of land ownership creates difficulties in managing the natural resources for traditional subsistence and culturally acceptable uses. The state government, federal government, native village councils, and native corporations own and manage the lands which have supported the Athabascan people for generations.

The AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Solution

The AmeriCorps positions within these communities (as proposed in this grant application) are part of the movement to counteract the social fragmentation occurring within our communities. By recruiting from within local communities, and working closely with different people within the community to develop the collaborative working relationships that facilitate integrated service-learning within schools, the AmeriCorps participant (as a Regional Based Coordinator of the Adopt-a-Watershed curriculum model) will play a key role in integrating the development of our two greatest resources; the children of our communities and the land we live on. AmeriCorps participants will meet these needs by providing on site technical and educational assistance.

Residents have the traditional knowledge base required for the job, but we need to translate this into a working relationship that creates local employment and skilled professional workers. The AmeriCorps project would help Alaskan young people to assist their native villages in writing natural resource management plans for their land. The villages' goals are to increase local employment and provide professional opportunities that do not conflict with their traditional values. It is typical that the good agency jobs in these villages are filled by outsiders, whose high wages raise the per capita income without benefit to the local people. The AmeriCorps project should give local residents opportunities for both experience and

education in natural resource management fields.

Soil Conservation Service Washington
Dave Kraft
120 S. Chatfield
Goldendale, WA 98620
509-773-5800/509-773-5554

X Multi-Site

Applicant Name: USDA Soil Conservation Service Washington

Program Name: Mid Columbia Salmon Habitat Restoration Project

1. WHAT IS YOUR PROGRAM'S MISSION STATEMENT?

To restore and maintain salmon habitat on privately owned lands in the MidColumbia region **by** providing technical, financial, and material assistance through a collaboration of local, state, and federal efforts.

Each application must include statements of primary objectives in three area: Community Service, Community Building, and Participant Development. Please use a separate copy of this form to describe your objectives in each are (i.e. Community Service, Community Building, Participant Development). In the case of community service, also use a separate form for each priority area, if you are working on more than one (i.e. education, environment, etc.)

THIS APPLIES TO: Community Service

These are our three primary objectives:
A. Gain voluntary participation by private landowners by providing incentives to improve and protect key salmon habitat they control.

B. Plan, design and install critical conservation practices that enhance salmon habitat components such as water quality, cover, food sources and adequate in-stream **flows.**

C. Coordinate and focus the technical, financial and material resources of local, state, and federal agencies to accomplish the mission.

THIS APPLIES TO: Participant Development

These are our three primary objectives:
A. Gain experience in **planning, designing, and installing conservation practices** that **improve water quality and fish habitat.**

B. Learn and develop skills in **team problem solving to accomplish a goal.**

C. Gain skills and experience in **dealing effectively with individuals and groups** to **accomplish a conservation objective.**

THIS APPLIES TO: Community Benefits

These are our three primary objectives:
A. Bring together people of diverse opinions to solve a common environmental problem on a voluntary basis.

B. Utilize the voluntary approach to encourage landowner "buy-in" and cooperation versus a regulatory or threatening approach.

C. Provide learning opportunities to the entire community through information and education programs in conjunction with the project implementation.

PROGRAM SUMMARY
MID-COLUMBIA SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

The Mid-Columbia region located on the Washington side of the Columbia River is capable of providing key habitat for salmon spawning. Certain runs of salmon in the Columbia River system are candidates for listing under the endangered Species Act. Current water quality conditions for the direct tributaries and their sub-watersheds are generally below state standards for aquatic life. The Columbia River salmon issue has become a major national concern. This project aims to deal with this issue using a voluntary approach that will insure longer lasting results.

The primary environmental concerns are high in-stream water temperatures and low stream flows in the summer. Both of these conditions are fatal to juvenile salmon. Both of these conditions can be corrected by improving vegetative cover and soil stability along streambeds and adjacent areas.

Current economic and resource limitations in the area require that an incentive be provided to landowners to voluntarily improve salmon habitat in streams they control. The project would utilize the AmeriCorps program to supply the needed personnel to plan, design and install conservation practices on privately owned lands. Partnering agencies would help provide additional financial and material assistance.

The Soil Conservation Service would provide overall leadership and direction for the project. Local conservation districts would also provide oversight and prioritization based on their knowledge of the local conditions and their rapport with the landowners.

AmeriCorps participants would build a record of work experience and dependability, learn and utilize team problem solving skills to accomplish a goal, learn the factors that contribute to good water quality and gain experience in dealing with people on an individual and group basis.

The local community would gain the opportunity to voluntarily solve a high profile environmental concern. The project would also provide a format for diverse groups and individuals to come to a consensus on how to treat salmon habitat problems. Finally, numerous opportunities for environmental education would be created for local schools and the general public. All of this will contribute to a better, and more sustainable solution.

The proposed project area is located in Klickitat County,
Washington and encompasses the major drainages and tributaries to the Columbia River that originate within the county.

There is an overall need within the project area to provide accelerated assistance to private landowners to improve

conditions in potential salmon spawning waters. The AmeriCorps program would provide the needed support and opportunity to satisfy this need.

Certain runs of salmon in the Columbia River system are being considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Providing quality spawning habitat is vital to salmon survival. The AmeriCorps program can be used to address this national environmental concern by supplying needed personnel to plan, design and install critical conservation practices.

The objective is to target private landowners with technical, financial and material assistance to improve salmon habitat. Most of the suitable spawning habitat in the project area is under private ownership. Low economic returns from the resource based economy is a hindering factor in getting private landowner participation. The local economic base consists of farming, ranching and logging. Prevailing soil and climatic conditions limit the productivity for these industries to a level that is generally below average for the state (i.e. soils are thin and annual rainfall is low).

Additional inputs or incentives are needed to get private landowner participation, especially since salmon habitat restoration will mean little or no economic return to the landowner. This has been documented by the Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts in their Long Range Resources Plan.

Most of the environmental problems center around poor water quality for supporting aquatic life. Most of the streams in the area have water temperatures exceeding 70 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer. These temperatures can be fatal to young salmon. In addition, most potential spawning beds are filled with silt and cannot support living salmon eggs.

Late season stream flows are generally too low to support viable populations of juvenile salmon. In many of the tributary streams, the water actually disappears in the summer and fall. These conditions make it impossible for salmon populations to maintain themselves, much less increase.

AmeriCorps participants could work with landowners to help them improve streamside areas (also known as riparian areas) to provide more shading in the summer and thus increase water

flows. AmeriCorps workers could also assist irrigators to be more efficient. In this way, less water would have to be taken from streams. This would improve summer time stream flows as well.

These conditions have been documented by the Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts in their Watershed Inventory Report of January 1991. There is also supporting documentation available from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as the Yakima Indian Nation.

Previous surveys of water quality in the area (14,90-91) show that nearly all of the major tributaries to the Columbia River do not meet state water quality standards. One stream, the Little Klickitat River, is listed by the state as a Threatened Use Water Body.

The project would build on four years of water quality improvement projects by the Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts as well as the Yakima Indian Nation and the Northwest Power Planning Council. Several streams and rivers in the project area have been targeted by the following agencies for salmon habitat enhancement.

Washington Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
- Yakima Indian Nation
- Northwest Power Planning Council

In addition to the above mentioned agencies, the central Klickitat Conservation District (CD), Eastern Klickitat CD and the Underwood CD would be partnering agencies with the SCS. Additional agencies and groups that wish to join in the project would be welcome.

The project would provide technical training to both AmeriCorps participants and to private landowners. Specifically. this would be in the area of identifying and measuring water quality problems as well as learning to plan, design and implement practices to correct the problems. AmeriCorps participants would build a record of work experience and dependability, learn and utilize team problem solving skills to accomplish a goal, learn the factors that contribute to water quality and how to implement practices to achieve good water quality and gain experience in dealing with the public.

Project administration would be provided by SCS. The local field office would provide overall supervision by the District Conservationist and technical assistance from the existing staff. One additional SCS staff person would be needed for daily work supervision of the AmeriCorps crew. This SCS crew leader will work with the partner agencies and the local SCS District Conservationist to pull together technical, financial and material assistance to help landowners get the practices applied.

The day-to-day responsibilities of the crew will be to 1)inventory water quality and riparian area conditions along prioritized streams, 2) develop alternative solutions to problems with individual landowners or groups of landowners, 3) design the agreed upon solutions and 4) assist the landowners) to install the planned conservation practices.

Examples of practices that would be installed include the planting of trees and willow cuttings, shaping and seeding steep slopes, protecting streambanks with innovative bio-engineering

techniques, building fences to control livestock access to streams, implementing planned grazing systems and forestland erosion control systems.

Participants involved with installation of conservation practices would have to be able to work outdoors in harsh climatic conditions and perform manual labor tasks. Participants should have a post-secondary degree in either natural resource management or the biological sciences at a minimum. Since hiring would have to be done under the administration of the SCS, all necessary efforts can be made to recruit a diverse pool of applicants locally, statewide, and even nationally.

Soil Conservation Service California

Program Name: California SCS-I

WHAT IS YOUR PROGRAMS MISSION STATEMENT?

To protect and heal watershed ecosystems in areas damaged by the 1993-94 wild fires, earthquake, and also in areas with a high potential for fires.

Each application must include statements of primary objectives in three area: Community Service, Community Building, and Participant Development. Please use a separate copy of this form to describe your objectives in each are (i.e. Community Service, Community Building, Participant Development). In the case of community service, also use a separate form for each priority area, if you are working on more than one (i.e. education, environment, etc.)

THIS APPLIES TO: **community service**

These are our three primary objectives:

A. To adopt an ecosystem, whole watershed, approach to managing forest lands in small private ownership.

B. To promote and install improved irrigation systems and irrigation water management farms that are primarily minority owned and operated.

C. To implement existing watershed enhancement and rehabilitation plans and to educate clients, school children through Adopt-a-Watershed program and the public.

THIS APPLIES TO **Participant Development**

These are our three primary objectives:

A. Improve job skills

B. To improve communication skills.

C. To develop the concept of a land ethic in the participants.

THIS APPLIES TO **community Building**

These are out three primary objectives:

A. To educate small landowners concerning forest resources management and marketing to increase timber and create new employment opportunities.

B. To teach minority and other water users to use gypsum blocks as a tool to more efficiently use irrigation water.

C. To increase community participation and coordinated multi-agency involvement to complete and implement watershed plans.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

This AmeriCorps project would meet needs in rural and rural/urban interface areas of California. The participants would work on projects to provide assistance to persons needing help in forest recovery, salmon and fisheries recovery, water quality improvement and conservation, and similar work.

SPECIFIC NEEDS TO BE MET:

Rural areas of California are suffering from multiple environmental concerns and severe economic problems. The Pacific Northwest has needs to protect endangered species of wildlife, improve forest management on small landholdings, and improve economic conditions. Other rural areas are suffering competing demands for limited water, and they need water quality and conservation improvement. Small farmers with limited resources and of various ethnic groups need help with farming methods and resource protection.

The goal of the Adopt-a-Watershed program is to develop a strong community-school connection through a collaborative effort of coordinating existing programs and community resources. It will link work and education through hands on learning by doing, in the service of watershed stewardship. It is becoming imperative that communities join together to care for the land around them and to teach their youth. This program will develop that ethic of service in all of the participants, the teachers, the parents, the students, the mentors, and the apprentices as each person involved understands how he/she is part of a larger process, and how each person has power and value in the collaborative effort of building community and caring for their own habitat.

The AmeriCorps positions within these communities (as proposed in this grant application) are part of the movement to counteract the social fragmentation occurring within our communities. By recruiting from within local communities, and working closely with different people within the community to develop the collaborative working relationships that facilitate integrated service-learning within schools, the AmeriCorps participant (as a Regional Based Coordinator of the Adopt-a-Watershed curriculum model) will play a key role in integrating the development of our two greatest resources; the children of our communities and the land we live on.

AmeriCorps participants will meet these needs by providing on site technical and educational assistance.

KEY ELEMENTS:

Key to success of this AmeriCorps project are watershed plans,
Resource Conservation and Development plans, and participating

sponsor plans for addressing the above mentioned needs that are already in place and ready to be implemented. In addition, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Resource Conservation Districts, and the other participating organizations have a trained corps of highly technical experts to provide the training and guidance needed to the AmeriCorps participants to be successful in their efforts. SCS and its partners will apply their extensive experience in working with various agencies and participating land users to provide the help and meet both the environmental and human needs.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

Thirty participants are needed to carry out this proposal.

ADMINISTRATION AND PRIMARY PROGRAM PARTNERS:
The administering organization will be the Soil Conservation Service, California. This is a federal agency experienced in working with private landowners and users, small and large, and with multiple agencies to accomplish protection and improvement of the natural resource (soil, water, plant, animal) while being sensitive to the human needs. We have local offices and staff providing help to every part of California.

Primary program partners are:

Resource Conservation Districts
High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development Council
Environmental Protection Agency
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association
Army Corps of Engineers
California Regional Water Quality Control Boards
California Department of Fish and Game
University of California, Cooperative Extension
County Supervisors
Local Irrigation, water, and other agencies.

Narrative

(a) Need (s) to be met

The needs that will be met by this are rural development and environmental in nature. The specific site projects will address needs of endangered species conservation, Limited Resource Farmers, education about the environment, and natural resource protection and betterment. A national service program addresses these needs very well because meeting the needs incrementally protects and improves the Nation's natural resource base, improves the economic climate of some severely depressed rural parts of California, and assists limited resource and minority landowners and land users.

There are several environmental problems to be solved. Concerns for endangered species has greatly reduced timber production of

the National Forests, which has increased pressure for timber production on private lands. These private lands have not been well managed for forest resources because of the lack of knowledge of forest management techniques. Degradation of watershed ecosystems is a severe negative impact on the number of Salmon and other fishes. The watershed degradation is also decreasing wildlife habitat. There are problems of wildfires, erosion, and loss of riparian habitat. Water is scarce with many competing demands placed on a limited supply. Water supply is decreased by natural and wan made pollution. The Soil Conservation Service, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the State recognize a need for non-point source pollution control as well as better management of the water as it is used for crop production, wildlife, and endangered species.

Needs

The needs addressed are interrelated because they are resource needs in a complex natural system. They are addressed separately for clarity.

The program will address management of forest to protect the ecosystem while providing timber production. It will reduce and manage the fuel loads that cause the severe wildfires. This relates most directly to the environment, public safety, and human needs national priority areas. The benefit to the community will be reduced risk to life and property, improved natural resources, (plant, animal, soil, and water), and improved economic and job prospects.

The program will also address the need to reverse watershed degradation. The habitat for endangered species such as Salmon will be improved, riparian areas will be created, protected, and improved, and stream bank and gully erosion will be stopped. People will be taught to understand the complexity of the watershed ecosystem. These needs relate directly to the education and environment national priority areas. The benefit to the community will be increased habitat for locally important species, decreased pollution of water, stopping the sediment that fills up the local estuaries, and educational resource areas provided.

The program will also address water quality and conservation. There is a need to reduce the amount of water used, to make the supply stretch further, and to reverse the degradation of the water quality. There is a need to stop the pollution and sediment sent to streams, rivers, estuaries, and downstream users of the water. These needs relate directly to the environment and human needs national priority issue areas. The direct benefit to the community is increased availability of water and better quality of the water supply,

Alaska Forest Service Narrative

AmeriCorps - Rural Development Corps
Developing Sustainable Economies in the ALASKA Communities

Needs to be Met

Environment

Development of native community-based sustainable economic development strategies using renewable natural resources in ways that protect and enhance the environment is the primary need to be met by this program. The program will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives, provide technical assistance in analyzing these alternatives, and work with native community and business leaders to implement essential projects that lead to sustainable economic activity. Participants will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities.

Participants will provide technical support in d wide variety of areas to existing rural businesses and entrepreneurs wishing to start businesses. Activities will focus on enhancing production Of value-added products from forest resources, helping rural communities capitalize on travel and tourism opportunities, developing businesses based on recycled products, and supporting development of community-based economic development organizations.

Education

Participants will be working in a mentored environment where professional Forest Service and State Forester's Staff provide guidance and direction. Training will focus on developing interpersonal skills, collaborative planning skills, group involvement skills, consensus building skill, and meeting management skills. Participants will be utilizing their technical skills in a real world environment. They will learn much about the decision-Making process in rural communities and how to help diverse groups reach consensus on difficult issues.

Human Needs

Participants will become part Of a team effort to assist rural communities in making informed decisions as citizens identify, develop and implement sustainable economic development strategies. Participants will be asked to **apply** their technical skills in real world situations which will affect the future of the communities in which they work. This involvement at the local level will familiarize participants with the resources, needs, and aspirations of rural communities and increase their awareness of rural people. These efforts will improve the decision-Making capabilities of the Participants, and provide new experiences to broaden their cultural awareness.

Participants activities are expected to have a significant positive impact on the economy in rural Alaska. The technical expertise that participants will bring to bear in assisting existing

businesses will help them become more competitive in both domestic and international markets. Targeted market research efforts will identify new products, business development efforts will improve the use of technology, updated management systems, improved advertising/sales techniques, and worker training programs implemented on-site will help improve business profitability and competitiveness. Business growth, job creation, and increased opportunities for value-added manufacturing opportunities will result. Participants will also support the development of home-based and micro-businesses. Participants will help prepare business plans, assist in the preparation of financing packages, assist in grant writing, and develop micro-loan programs in rural communities to help generate successful small businesses.

Program Design

Participants will be working throughout the State. Rental housing assistance is available through local housing placement service. Travel and per them expenses will be paid when overnight travel is required. When project work requires extended travel periods, arrangements will be made for housing with local families through out the state.

Program Elements

Self-confidence and practical experience in project planning, group process, consensus building, team work, multicultural awareness, and in natural resource based sustainable economic development will be gained from this program. Work experience will involve **d** variety of technical efforts done in conjunction with a variety of partners. This includes designing, producing, mailing and analyzing several broad-based surveys aimed at **d** determining community needs such as improvement in the local businesses and what these companies are producing and what they are capable of producing, what new sales opportunities may exist or be potentially available. These will lead to the development of about 5 business plans. Five infrastructure improvement projects will be planned, and designed aimed at transportation facilities, industrial and building facilities such as dust control systems, timber bridges and multi-modal transportation facilities. five worker training programs will be designed and implemented. These will address employment and management needs. Approximately 5 financing plans will be developed for small businesses, and 5 revolving loan funds will be established. Several community foundations will be established for the State will be given grant writing assistance. Additional work experience will be gained in group decision-making, consensus building, and grass roots planning processes.

Recruitment Goals

Our primary recruitment goal is to identify college students from rural Alaska that are enrolled as juniors, seniors, or graduate students in Local colleges or universities, or students from Alaska that are attending out-of-state schools, that wish to gain appropriate job experience.

Contacts have been developed with administrative offices at schools in Alaska and with high school counselors throughout the State to identify likely candidates. We will also contact 1890 and other minority Schools to determine student interest in participating in this program. We

hope to create a diverse crew workforce through these strategies.

Administering Organization

The USDA Forest Service's Region 10 will be the Administering organization. Currently, we hire many summer interns for a Variety of activities. This program will be an extension of that effort. our emphasis to provide practical experience within the framework of community-based economic development. Such practical experience should improve the employability of the Participants. This practical experience will be supported by specific training designed to meet the needs of the Participants in working with community-based economic development.

Program Partners

The program will be run in cooperation with a variety Of partners. These partners will assist in planning, coordination, training, implementation, and monitoring the program. These program partners are:

The Alaska Rural Development Council
The Alaska Division of Forestry
The Alaskan Tribal councils
The Private Sector Foundations
Small Business Development Centers

Applicant Name: USDA Soil Conservation **Service Alaska**

Program Name: Natural Management Planners

1. WHAT IS YOUR PROGRAM'S MISSION STATEMENT?

To conserve and protect tribal land and other resources; to encourage and support the exercise of tribal powers of self-government; to aid and support economic development; to promote the general welfare of each member tribe and it's respective individual members; to preserve and maintain justice for all; and to otherwise exercise all powers granted to its member villages.

Each application must include statements of primary objectives in three area: Community Service, Community Building, and Participant Development. Please use a separate copy of this form to describe your objectives in each are (i.e. Community Service, Community Building, Participant Development). In the case of community service, also use a separate form for each priority area, if you are working on more than one (i.e. education, environment, etc.)

THIS APPLIES TO Community Service **These are our three primary objectives:**

A. To develop the capacity of local communities to manage their natural resources **by** coordinating on-the-job training for Resource Specialist and professional assistance to tribes to develop long range Resource management Plans.

B. To develop the capacity of local communities to contract with state and federal agencies to perform resource management services on adjacent public lands.

THIS APPLIES TO Participant Development **These are our three primary objectives:**

A. To develop a Youth Summer Practicum in Resource Management to encourage young people in careers appropriate to the Yukon Flats.

B. To develop education and employment opportunities for local residents in Resource Management.

YUKON FLATS RC&D AREA, ALASKA
COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

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SUMMARY

The Yukon Flats region of Alaska is a 55,000 square mile area populated by 1500 people in ten Athabascan Indian villages. The communities are connected each other only by river in summer, dogsled and snowmachine trails in the winter, and expensive air service all year long. The indigenous people adapted to this vast, harsh land centuries ago by hunting, gathering, and fishing for food, clothing, and shelter materials. People continue to live off the land and this lifestyle is defined as "subsistence" by today's society.

A mixed-bag of landownership creates difficulties in managing the natural resources for traditional subsistence and culturally acceptable uses. The state government, federal government, native village councils, and native corporations own and manage the lands which have supported the Athabascan people for generations.

There have been severe cutbacks in the agencies that have resource management authority and responsibility within the Yukon Flats. These agencies do not have the time or funding to identify and accomplish wildlife and other natural resource management objectives over an area the size of Iowa that encompasses the Yukon Flats. The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG), a consortium of the villages in the Flats, is developing the technical capacity and human resource skills needed to create a partnership between the agencies and the villages.

CATG states "We have the traditional knowledge base required for the job, but we need to translate this into a working relationship that creates local employment and skilled professional

workers."

The AMERICORPS project would help Athabascan young people to assist their native villages in writing natural resource management plans for their land. The villages' goals are to increase local employment and provide professional opportunities that do not conflict with their traditional values. It is typical that the good agency jobs in these villages are filled by outsiders, whose high wages raise the per capita income without benefit to the local people. The AMERICORPS project should give local residents opportunities for both experience and education in natural resource management fields.

The incumbent planner(s) will assist villages in gathering wildlife and other natural resource data, coordinate the data collection with and receive t*raining from USDA-SCS and USDI-F&WS, help villages prioritize resources of concern and write natural resource management plans.

one or two Americorps positions will be open initially. It is CATG's goal to eventually employ a trained natural resource specialist in each of the ten Yukon Flats villages.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, as described in the 1986 Constitution is: to conserve and protect tribal land and other resources; to encourage and support the exercise of tribal powers of self-government; to aid and support economic development; to promote the general welfare of each member tribe and it's respective individual members; to preserve and maintain justice for all; and to otherwise, exercise all powers granted to its member villages.

The Long Range Goals of the CATG were established during the first two years of planning meetings and are the same today:

I. Land and Resource Protection in the Yukon Flats.

II. A Stable Economy Which is Compatible with the Cultural Values of the Yukon-Flats.

III. Strong and Unified Communities in that Yukon Flats Region

CATG objectives to carry out their mission are:

1) To develop the capacity of local communities manage their natural resources by coordinating on-the-job training for Resource professional assistance to tribes to develop long range Resource Management Plans.

2) To develop the capacity of local con=unities to contract with state and federal agencies

to perform resource management services on adjacent public lands.

3) To develop education and employment opportunities for local residents in Resource Management.

4) To develop a Youth Summer Practicum in Resource Management to encourage young people in career appropriate to the Yukon Flats.

NARRATIVE

NEEDS TO BE MET

The AMERICORPS project will help the Yukon Flats communities provide jobs, educational opportunities, and a natural resource planning mechanism which the local residents will use to manage their wildlife and other subsistence use resources.

Job opportunities are a first priority for the people in the Yukon Flats. Fort Yukon, the largest village of the Flats, and the hub of the surrounding villages, has 234 people over 16 years old in the labor force. Sixty-one percent, or 170 people, are employed. Of these 170 jobs, 98 are local, state, and federal government positions.

Educational opportunities are an important benefit of the AMERICORPS Program to the Yukon Flats. In Fort Yukon, as is typical for the surrounding villages, only 58 percent of the residents over the age of 25 are high school graduates. The Natural Resource Planner positions build on existing knowledge and skills to do jobs that have direct influence over the lives of the fur trappers, fishermen and fisherwomen, and hunters of food in the Flats. Their work revolves around fish wheels, berry season, duck and geese migrations, and big game hunting for meat.

A combination of the scientific background in data collection provided by agencies, education in natural resource management at a state university, and a cultural awareness of traditional land uses in the Yukon Flats, will enable the AMERICORPS participants to provide leadership among their own people on their own lands.

The products of this project will provide the landusers the tools to manage their wildlife, vegetation, and water resources in a sustainable, but economically viable and culturally acceptable way. They will include maps, natural resource plans and identification of village priorities.

PROCESS

The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments was formed when Chiefs, Elders and other members of the tribal governments of the Yukon Flats gathered in Fort Yukon, Alaska in September 1985 to memorialize Chief Esias Loola and to confront the problems affecting the communities. At that first planning meeting, Clarence Alexander, Chief of Fort Yukon and now Chairman of the organization, summed up the results of history and identified the

direction of the CATG:

".. It's that responsibility has been taken away from us. For a long time we haven't been responsible for anything and, what we're really gearing up to do right now is trying to take control and take that responsibility, our responsibility to our community. We always leave it to somebody else. I think it's time that we take control of our own responsibilities. I think that's really what we're doing.,,

CATG has met regularly since 1985, developing their capacities by establishing the Yukon Flats Fur Cooperative, contracting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for subsistence harvest data collection, holding an annual fur sewers and bead workers workshop, and preparing a brochure advertising Authentic Native Designs.

CATG priorities are determined at regular meetings with the chiefs of each village. All villages elect chiefs annually, and decisions are made by consensus of all chiefs after consultations with their Village Councils and village residents.

CATG has developed partnerships with USDI Fish and Wildlife Service through an 809 Cooperative Agreement, and with USDA Soil Conservation Service through their application and approval of an Resource Conservation and Development Area. These federal partners, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Subsistence Division will provide the technical guidance and supervision for the AMERICORPS participant throughout the year.

Progress and program appraisals will be assessed by SCS on a quarterly basis and the participant will be directly supervised by CATG/Yukon Flats RC&D through their offices in Fort Yukon.

DESIGN

Initial program responsibilities for the incumbent AMERICORPS participant will be to:

-compile maps, surveys, aerial photography, and other existing resource information on the Yukon Flats.

--meet with residents, village councils, and elders in the village to identify traditional use and priority use areas.

--collect inventories of vegetation, fire history, wildlife species for the priority use areas.

--make presentations to the village and facilitate the natural resource planning process.

--enlist village volunteers to assist in drafting the plan, present it to the village for review, and begin identifying ways to accomplish the goals they have identified.

--present natural resource programs to youth groups

--assist in community revegetation and conservation programs

CONCEPT

The primary concept is to acquire professional skills at the local level, while learning on the job and working within the community. In this way, everyone receives knowledge in a culturally acceptable manner. The villages can participate in the decision making process and will have the ability to ate in the management of the entire Yukon Flats traditional use area. Through this process we will build a village-to-village network of trained, professionally skilled, Athabascan resource managers.

We expect that the natural resource planning process will be on-going due to the vast amount of arctic land in the Yukon Flats which supports 1500 residents. Many areas have some resource information available, but work is needed to consolidate the data and maps and provide-villages with the resource information they need in order to manage the land for sustained use.

The first AMERICORPS participant will prepare a time-line of activities that will need to be done for one village and the immediate surrounding area. This plan could then be duplicated as other Yukon Flats villages are given an AMERICORPS opportunity.

Office support will be provided by the Yukon Flats RC&D. Other partnerships exist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Subsistence Division, and two units of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

An existing agreement between these organizations was initiated in September 1992 in Stevens Village, Alaska. At this meeting a comfortable working relationship was established that has permitted CATG.to move forward by creating a cooperative agreement for harvest monitoring. USF&WS has been very pleased with the arrangement, which provided more extensive information from villagers than they themselves had been able to gather.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

The Natural Resource Planner will participate with many groups in Fort Yukon that deal with natural resources. This summer there are bioengineering activities planned, summer "spirit camps" scheduled for youth, privately funded plant trials being tested, and a state plan underway to reintroduce wood bison to the area.

A typical week will include contacts with agencies, speaking to local groups about resource concerns, accompanying a scientist into the wetlands to gather data, and recording information on aerial photography.

RELATION TO NEED

We would expect the AMERICORPS participant to work as closely and frequently with agency resource specialists as is practical. The activities will enhance The relationship

between villagers and outside agency representatives. It will increase the visibility of a native person as a resource manager, and will encourage the village youth to pursue their education in resource management at the college level.

PARTICIPANT TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Natural resource management training is currently available through CATG by state and federal resource agencies. In addition, SCS will provide training in soils, vegetation, engineering, and data collection.

The villages in the Yukon Flats are at least one hour's flight from Fairbanks, the center for Interior Alaska services. We anticipate that travel during the summer will be between villages by river boat, and some air travel will be necessary to receive training and reach other villages in the winter.

PARTICIPANT PLACEMENT AND SUPERVISION

Participants will be placed individually in one or two villages with direct supervision provided by the Yukon Flats RC&D. Other support and technical assistance will be available from the Fairbanks SCS Field Office by the District Conservationist, with the Agronomist, Soil Scientist, and Engineer participating.

Recruitment should begin in the identified villages (Fort Yukon and perhaps one other village) in order to foster the attitude that Chief Alexander expressed in the Process section of this application. The responsibility for natural resource management is that of the landuser. The Athabascan Indians in the Yukon Flats recognize the job opportunities for residents of the Yukon Flats are limited, and the need for higher education is great. AMERICORPS is a perfect opportunity to encourage the youth in the Yukon Flats to preserve their culture, protect their resources, and earn their education.

Individual Site Application #33
Rural Development
Midwest Flood States (IA, MO, IL, KS, NB, ND, SD, MN, WI)

Number of participants:

Needs To Be Met

The great floods of the past year have ravaged large portions of the vast Mississippi and Ohio watersheds. Farms, homes, businesses, whole rural infrastructures have been washed away or laid waste to at the whim of Mother Nature. In places, whole townsites must either be rebuilt or substantially reworked. Clearly, a simple patch-up effort will not suffice. As if the flood had not taken enough toll, this region has been recently plagued with a rapidly shifting economy as its two mainstays, agriculture and manufacturing, readjust to life in the 90's. In many places of the region, rapid depopulation is occurring independent of whatever effects the great floods may also be having in that regard. The job ahead in the Flood Region is diverse and so requires a diverse mixture of solutions.

The environmental needs to be met will be the restoration and protection of resources damaged by the statewide record floods of 1993 including wetlands restoration, riparian area reestablishment, livestock waste management, trout stream protection, and debris removal. The project will also promote rural development by restoring, improving, and protecting priority resources for farmers and small rural communities. In North Dakota, the two participants will assist in the completion of a inventory of rivers and streams in a seven-county project area. The inventory data will be evaluated to determine eligibility for EWP (explain?) assistance and to prioritize specific sites. The AmeriCorps participants would be involved in the inventory and evaluation phases. Prioritized sites will be planned by SCS personnel for debris removal.

In Iowa, the work of the AmeriCorps participants will enable local water resource districts to alleviate flooding hazards caused by the Midwest flood of 1993. Considerable debris, primarily native woody material needs to be cleared and snagged from the Red River and eight of its major tributaries in order to curtail future flooding. An estimated 500 river miles will require a reconnaissance survey to determine the specific actions that will be necessary to curb flooding problems. The local water resource districts have estimated 190 roads and 250 bridges and culverts would benefit from Emergency Watershed Protection. An estimated 200 farmsteads, with nearly 1,000 buildings, would benefit from reduced out-of-bank flooding. Twenty-one communities would also benefit. Implementation of this project will benefit over 167,000 people in the seven counties. Reduced flooding will protect soil resources from overland shoot flows. Prime farmlands, which entail nearly half of the cropland in the project area, would be better protected from flood events.

The needs in the other flood states are equally enormous.

The AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Solution

Two-hundred and ninety-seven (NUMBER NOT YET DETERMINED) participants will form Midwest Rural Development and Environmental teams and will perform flood recovery work, and address priority environmental and rural development concerns in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Four states have designated exact service projects they will conduct; the remaining states will base their final project upon spring and summer weather and flooding conditions.

The Soil Conservation Service and the Agriculture Stabilization (ASCS) and Conservation Service (SCS) will administer the program. In Illinois, twenty-three participants will form two environmental teams to supervise the clean-up of debris from the flood in 12 counties. In Iowa, sixty-six participants will form a rural development team to restore and protect resources damaged by the flood. In North Dakota, two participants will work in a seven-county area to assist in the completion of an inventory of rivers and streams; the participants also will supervise debris removal projects. In South Dakota, thirteen participants will form a rural development team in designated flood disaster areas to perform recovery work, as well as emphasize the importance of flood plain management. (IOWA?) The remaining participants will be assigned in the other five states as needs are identified by the SCS, the ASCS, members of the state's emergency management team, and local partners. All teams will be designed according to the rural development model with more skilled participants assigned individually, but some will also form into crews periodically to supervise environmental work such as debris removal.

A socio-economic diverse group of participants will be recruited, with persons displaced or otherwise affected by the flood to be given preference as participants.

Sites will be identified by the Soil Conservation Service, the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, and personnel from the other agencies that comprise each state's emergency management team. Site design plans could duplicate work activities as outlined in the Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota proposals. The **Iowa** model is a rural development team, consisting of 12 components with 66 participants as follows:
1) three participants will assist the reestablishment of riparian wetland areas in each state; 2) ten participants will serve as community assistance planners in each state; 3) four engineering students and one coordinator will serve as participants in Animal Waste Management System development; 4) four engineers and one coordinator will work in the Emergency Watershed Protection Program; 5) one information specialist in each state will communicate emergency program opportunities to the public; 6) one landscape architect will enhance rural development efforts by incorporating comprehensive landscape planning and using visual tools to involve the public; 7) one coordinator will match beginning limited resource farmers with retirement age farmers under the Rural Population Stabilization Program; 8) two specialists will identify locations of tracts participating in the Wetland Reserve Program, Emergency Wetland Reserve Program, and Conservation Reserve Program and will develop Digital Data Layers; 9) six restoration specialists will target flood damaged riverine areas for wetland restoration; 10) one biologist, one engineer, six implementation crew members for streambank stabilization; 11) one ecosystem manager will perform accelerated ecosystem management planning with private

landowners in priority streams; and 12) four water resource assistants and four nutrient management planners will work with rural water management and improvement.

The **North Dakota** plan calls for two rural development participants with forestry, biology, surveying, engineering, or contracting skills to assist SCS personnel in the Emergency Watershed Protection recovery effort. The **South Dakota** proposal will create a rural development team of 11 biological technicians who will perform paraprofessional tasks in various areas of the state related to watershed recovery work. In **Illinois,** an Environment Team of 23 participants with two crew leaders would supervise removal of flood debris in 12 counties of the state.

All participants will receive on-the-job training in technical and programmatic areas to meet the needs of their position. Training, will be provided on location by local and state level specialists from SCS, ASCS, and other resource agencies.

Participants on the rural development teams will be mostly college or professional school graduates. Socio-economic diversity of participants will be a major component in recruitment. In addition, work/study students in institutions of higher education in the flood states will also be recruited. A goal of 25% e of the participants will be recruited through the Corporation's national recruitment pool.

Participants will gain valuable technical expertise, community organizing skills which could be helpful in their future careers. The individuals will have an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in natural resource conservation. This opportunity could result in these individuals pursuing an education and career in conservation or rural development.

Success will be measured based on accomplishments related to an annual plan of operations that will be developed each year for each program.

Initially, the participants on the rural development teams will work with the SCS or ASCS project office or local field office staffs. After minimum skill levels are attained, the participant will work independently with periodic supervision and quality control overview. Participants will have tasks assigned that are matched to their educational and previous work experiences.

Individual Site Application #24
Rural Development
New England (ME, VT, NY)

Number of Participants: 29

Needs To Be Met

Early efforts at water quality improvement in the Northeast states produced remarkable results that fell into disuse when single-resource solutions of the federal system came into vogue. Now that years have passed and the holistic management techniques have been rediscovered (and discovered to have been quietly working all this time), it is time to reintroduce these water quality techniques in concert with a new philosophy of federalism. Water quality is critical to Northern New England's natural resource-based economy which has been severely impacted with high unemployment rates. Northern New England's key rural economies impacted by water quality are its aquaculture and fishing industries, agriculture, drinking water supplies, new crop development, forestry, forest management practices, tourism, and recreation. If Northern New England's water quality concerns are not addressed, the present bleak state of the economies that depend on this resource will continue.

The AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Solution

Northern New England's AmeriCorps water quality proposal will address the needs of numerous individual projects throughout the region under the umbrella of Northern New England USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) programs of technical assistance. Additionally, a unified AmeriCorps team will be established and trained individually to continue serving the water quality needs of the region and the nation throughout their careers long after their AmeriCorps experience.

In one project area, participants will work under the administration of Northern New England USDA Soil Conservation Service team with assistance from the Quebec Labrador Foundation's (QLF) Atlantic Center for the Environment. The QLF will be responsible for selection, screening, training, employee evaluation, monitoring, and employee workshops. Other administrative duties will be provided through and by Maine SCS state and field office professionals in local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDS) and Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) areas.

In New York State these solutions are found in the form of aid and assistance to the Seneca Nation in improving natural resource management decisions.

In Vermont, an ecosystems approach to management will be evaluated and used as a real-life educational laboratory for broad-based application.

Some of the individual project descriptions already identified follow this section and cover efforts from water quality and water supply to economic diversification and data base construction.

SCS's Maine's Water Quality Team

Program Name: Maine's Water Quality Team

1. WHAT IS YOUR PROGRAMS MISSION STATEMENT?

To work with communities to enhance water quality and fisheries in the State of Maine. Also, to increase and protect water-based industries in the State of Maine.

Each application must include statements of primary objectives in three area: Community Service, Community Building, and Participant Development. Please use a separate copy of this form to describe your objectives in each are (i.e. Community Service, Community Building, Participant Development). In the case of community service, also use a separate form for each priority area, if you are working on more than one (i.e. education, environment, etc.)

THIS APPLIES TO: Community Service These are our three primary objectives:

A. Promote awareness of water quality problems and solutions for Maine's citizens through education and resource management demonstration projects.

B. Enhance the state's soil and water based economy by providing rural development leadership in management and development of the state's resources.

C. Assess water quality resources.

THIS APPLIES TO: Participant Development

These are our three primary objectives:

A. Provide exposure to a range of career options that participants may aspire to.

B. Improve communication skills, both oral and written.

C. Enhance the ability of participants to work as team members and improve problem solving skills.

THIS APPLIES TO: Community Building

These are our three primary objectives:

A. Develop a relationship between the AmeriCorps participants, the Maine community, and federal and state agencies.

B. Instill an ethic of community investment.

C. Develop a spirit of cooperation between people of diverse cultures.

The specific needs which this project will meet will be environmental in that water quality preservation and enhancement will be the common thread and concern of each of the twenty positions in fifteen individual projects. Water quality is critical to Maine's natural resource-based economy which has been severely impacted with unemployment rates ranging from 15.81 in Aroostook County to 21.9% in coastal Washington County during the month of March 1994.

Maine's key economies impacted by water quality are our aquaculture and fishing industries, agriculture, drinking water supplies, new crop development, forestry, forest management practices, tourism, and recreation. If Maine's water quality concerns are not addressed, the present bleak state of the economies that depend on this resource will continue.

Maine's AmeriCorps water quality proposal will address the needs of numerous individual projects throughout the state under the umbrella of Maine's USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) program of technical assistance. Additionally, a unified AmeriCorps team will be established and trained individually to continue serving the water quality needs of Maine and the nation throughout their careers long after their AmeriCorps experience.

Participants will work under the administration of Maine's USDA Soil Conservation Service team with assistance from the Quebec Labrador Foundation's (QLF) Atlantic Center for the Environment. The QLF will be responsible for selection, screening, training, employee evaluation, monitoring, and employee workshops. Other administrative duties will be provided through and by Maine SCS state and field office professionals in local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDS) and Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) areas.

BRIEF NARRATIVES OF MAINE'S AMERICORPS WATER QUALITY TEAM PROJECTS

CRANBERRY WATER QUALITY COORDINATOR

The council is currently involved with the Maine Department of Agriculture, the University of Maine, the Maine Cranberry Grower's Association, USDA agencies, EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a program to promote wise development of Maine's new cranberry farming enterprises. What is needed is a technical water quality coordinator who will address growers' needs and coordinate appropriate available agency programs to one-on-one farmer assistance for water quality monitoring and pest management.

This challenging and rewarding experience will allow an individual to work with a wide variety of people in the community, linked with a number of various agency projects, and be a part of a statewide AmeriCorps-type contingent trying to improve the agricultural and natural resource environment in the State.

LAKES COORDINATOR

The St. John Aroostook RC&D will utilize a Lakes Coordinator to assist the Shin Pond Association conduct a sanitary survey of 250 camps, [utilizing a form developed by the RC&D and Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).] Once the surveys are complete, the AmeriCorps Lakes Coordinator will develop a sanitary survey report (similar to others developed by the RC&D.) Once this process is completed, the coordinator will assist the Shin Pond Association implement its recommendations. The surveying will begin in May and be completed by October. A member of the Shin Pond Association, a retired professor of geology from Syracuse University, will provide living accommodations at Shin Pond.

From October through the following May the incumbent will implement a plan of work that has been developed by the Fish River Lakes Water Quality Association. The incumbent will reside in a rural setting within this 600,000 acre watershed with office support provided by the St. John Aroostook RC&D.

TRAILS COORDINATOR

A Trails Coordinator will assist four local communities in administering Land and Water Conservation funding and National Recreational Trails Act funding received for the development of 18.5 miles of abandoned railroad right of way into a year-round multi-use recreational trail. The coordinator will be responsible to oversee development by working with personnel from local communities, working with a labor force provided by a local employment training agency, recordkeeping, and documenting and inspecting work as it proceeds. This trail system will improve water quality throughout Aroostook County by removing ATV's from highly eroded areas, placing them on trails designed to prevent erosion and sedimentation.

Work is scheduled to commence in May and will continue until late October, or until such time as weather forces termination of work. From November to the following May the coordinator will work with local communities to compile data and information into a text which will serve as a guide for future projects. In addition, work will be done coordinating winter schedules with local volunteers, as well as preparing grant reimbursement materials, and soliciting grant funds for ensuing year projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CIRCUIT RIDER

There is an immediate need in Cumberland County to facilitate and promote teacher training in the use of curricula which addresses the goals for environmental education. Studies show that, in many areas, environmental education curricula are virtually nonexistent. Training opportunities and resource materials are not being used. As a result, young people are not growing up with the knowledge and information they need to make informed decisions and take action concerning their environment.

ATLANTIC SALMON COORDINATOR

With the soon to be built fish ladder at Grand Falls, New Brunswick, Canada, Atlantic salmon will be introduced to the upper St. John in Aroostook County, Maine. The coordinator will develop a strategic business marketing plan with a descriptive benefit and cost analysis to establish private sector participation in the development of this fishery and the control of erosion and sedimentation on the United States side of this watershed.

This fishery will provide economic development opportunities that will help offset the loss of Logging Air Force Base and the decline of the traditional agricultural economy. Additionally, the coordinator will coordinate this economic development program with work being completed by the Atlantic Salmon AmeriCorps Coordinator in the Fish River Lakes which is a major tributary to the St. John River. The St. John River defines most of Maine's border with Canada and has the largest watershed of any river on the east coast from Florida to the Artic.

MID-COAST FISHERIES COORDINATORS (4)

These coordinators will be trained in fisheries and related skills to preserve and restore the historic sea fish runs to the Medomak River. The four coordinators will interact with community and industry leaders to establish a pilot demonstration hatchery for the culturing of shad and other anadromous species for enhancing absent or depleted runs. They will also inventory and monitor water quality as it relates to this reintroduction effort under the direction of the Time and Tide RC&D aquaculture specialist.

MARINE EDUCATION CENTER COORDINATORS (5)

Eighty percent of the clam flats along the coast of Maine are closed due to pollution and loss of the ability of the clams to maintain viable populations. The Beals Island Shellfish hatchery is designed to enhance the areas economic base through the production of baby seed shellfish (clams, scallops) and through educational training in the interrelationships of basic shellfish biology, resource management and the effects of varying water quality parameters.

Individuals working with this program will develop community understanding between the relationship of good water quality to the biology and economics of the shellfish industry through a training regime which includes conditioning adult shellfish broodstock to produce eggs, raising the young that develop from the eggs, growing in mass cultures the microscopic plants they feed on and treating all the water that is necessary for these activities in a variety of ways that affect water quality parameters. Training and supervision is conducted by and through a staff of professional hatchery personnel in a functioning hatchery system and out on the water in an actual working growout area.

CASCO BAY WATERSHED COORDINATORS (2)

The Casco Bay Watershed Ecosystem Team will consist of two natural resource employees interested in planning, inventorying, educating and applying total resource

management conservation solutions to improve water quality in priority SCS subwatershed units.

Team members will be responsible for organizing the Ecosystem project, identifying conservation priorities, developing a team action plan, coordinating with SCS and Soil and Water Conservation District technical advisors, monitoring progress, completing technical components, recording any necessary documentation and supervising associate conservation volunteers to assure successful ecosystem goals achievement.

ST. CROIX RIVER AND CHANDLER RIVER COORDINATORS (2)

The St. Croix Watershed covers 1,640 square miles of northeastern Maine and southwestern New Brunswick, Canada. A preliminary plan has been developed by the Washington County Water Quality Team and the St. Croix International Waterway Commission using a multi-agency approach that involved many local community volunteers. The coordinator would help complete the assessment and help implement the plan.

The coordinator would work closely with the Passamaquoddy Indians Environmental Department on their forestry lands and their reservation development projects, and carry out workshops, demonstrations, and volunteer monitoring aimed at improving water quality in the estuary, main river, and lakes regions.

The coordinator will develop a community non-point source program to address the high coliform counts, protect large aquifer recharge areas used in agriculture, promote wise use of natural resources through best management practices, help maintain the sustainable natural resource based economy and build environmental awareness within the communities. The coordinator will assist in promoting Integrated Crop Management on wild lowbush blueberries and establish a water monitoring program that will assess community water quality issues.

AGRICULTURE WATER QUALITY VIABILITY COORDINATOR

The coordinator, working with local communities and the Southern Aroostook SWCD, will develop resource water quality information for the north branch of the Meduxnekeag River and Prestile Stream Watershed projects. The coordinator will interface with local agriculture businesses, agricultural and forestry processors, citizens and municipalities. Additionally, the participant will work with limited resource farmers and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians to gather inventory data and develop draft reports that will lead to the development and implementation of water quality and rural development improvement practices for both of these watersheds.

MACD CONSERVATION EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The AmeriCorps Conservation Education Coordinator, working with the Maine Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and its Education Committee, will coordinate the conservation water quality education activities of Maine's 16 Soil and Water

Conservation Districts. Virtually all of the districts have education programs, and some districts have part-time education staff. These district programs are usually oriented towards water quality monitoring and improvement, involving both school students and adults.

For a number of years there has been a need for this coordinator. Maine's conservation districts are ideally situated to provide conservation education to Maine's rural communities. However, the districts have lacked the stimulation and direction which a statewide coordinator will provide.

It is anticipated that the coordinator will also provide organizational support to MACD's Natural Resources Institute, which provides hands-on conservation water quality education training to teachers throughout the state.

PROCESS

The USDA-SCS will be a statewide leader and administrator of an AmeriCorps project that will tie together rural development water quality projects from Maine's 4,000 miles of coastline and estuaries to the state's vast inland lakes and streams. The Quebec Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment (QLF/ACE) will be a partner helping to recruit, train, place, and evaluate applicants and the program. The USDA-SCS will transfer funds to the QLF/ACE under a memo of understanding that will provide specific details of cooperation.

Local SWCDs and RC&D councils throughout the state have identified water quality concerns and needs and proposed AmeriCorps projects to be addressed under the Soil Conservation Service umbrella. Each is staffed with career professional SCS employees with expertise in managing people engaged in projects of this type. These people will provide day-today training and supervision to individual AmeriCorps applicants assigned to local projects.

RECRUITING/SELECTION

Project participants will be recruited by the QLF/ACE, in consultation with SCS, RC&Ds and SWCDS, based on their specific skills and education and community needs. Project partners on site will be required to list desired qualifications and skills as part of the Memorandum of Understanding during the project planning period. most participants are expected to be pursuing or have a bachelors or masters-level degree in natural resource management or environmental studies, though some may have an undergraduate degree in addition to other experience.

Diversity of participants will be a high priority. The QLF/ACE receives hundreds of applications each year from throughout North America and will use that pool, plus the national pools compiled by the Corporation for National and Community Service, USDA, RC&Ds and SWCDS, to select participants from varied backgrounds. where appropriate, partners will also assist in identifying potential participants from within their communities (e.g., through universities and other institutions). Rural Maine does not have a large

minority population. However, our educational institutions and Native Americans together provide a diversified potential participant pool to select from. If necessary, however, qualified minority participants from other parts of the country will be recruited to work with counterparts from within their assigned community.

Participants will be selected based on their qualifications, their maturity and cultural sensitivity, their ability to work independently and with others, and their commitment to conservation, regional planning, and community service.

IMPLEMENTATION/OUTREACH

Projects will be conducted in communities with orientation and debriefing to take place at QLF/ACE Headquarters in Ipswich, Massachusetts, or a mutually agreed upon location, and quarterly training sessions at designated centralized gathering locations. Projects will include local advisory committees made up of representatives of community organizations and agencies. Volunteers to serve on the committees, including former Peace Corps volunteers, will be solicited by staff during the planning phase.

Each participant may work on more than one project during his or her day-to-day according to individual memos of understanding. Assignments will last from at least three months to a year or more, depending on community need and participants, suitability and availability. In all cases, participants will be expected to report on their assignment with recommendations in writing and to complete discrete project goals and objectives.

Participants will be trained in developing good community relations and will work with local and regional media sources to describe their project and the Americorps concept and program in general, distinguishing it from other jobs programs. In addition, participants will promote awareness of community partner organizations toward strengthening public support that will outlast the project time period.

ORIENTATION/TRAINING

Working with USDA staff, the QLF/ACE supervisors will conduct a one-week orientation to the AmeriCorps Program Water Quality Team. During this period, participants will take part in group exercises and training. Introduction to philosophy and procedures (e.g., accounting, reporting, emergency procedures, etc.) will also be discussed as a group. Based on project assignments, team members will also meet individually or in small groups with supervisors to discuss specific communities and to review both project goals and participants' expectations/goals. Either two or three one-week training sessions, in addition to orientation, will take place. These sessions will be pointed towards building team spirit, exchanging ideas and gaining knowledge of other projects from throughout Maine.

Based on the nature of assignments and USDA-SCS and QLF/ACE experience, participants will be given a large degree of autonomy on-site. Community partners and groups will play an important role in guiding the projects with supervisors experienced in advising and supporting field staff through regular phone contacts, conference calls, and field

visits. overall, however, participants themselves will be looked to for assessing project priorities and for choosing appropriate actions. Both communities and participants benefit from this level of independence, which allows for more creative and effective bottom-up problem-solving.

A key component to Maine's program will be its leadership and professional training programming, designed to complement on-site service and experiential learning. In addition to discussions at orientation and debriefing sessions, regular quarterly workshops will bring all AmeriCorps participants together to discuss successes, common problems, and solutions, and to concentrate on topics relevant to their work with community groups, to their careers and to their sense of volunteerism. Program staff and visiting professionals will lead and facilitate discussion. Each session will include readings assigned prior to the session, group exercises, and follow-up individual assignments to be reviewed by staff and discussed with team members. Goals are to promote: organizational capacity in communities; participant understanding of regional issues; leadership and personal development skills; and, a long-term community service ethic among participants. Topics/themes are to include:

- New England/North Atlantic Conservation and Rural Development Issues in the 90's - Conservation in a Cultural Context: Achieving Cross-cultural Sensitivity -Effective Organization, Team Building, and Communication (e.g., running meetings, motivating others, budgeting, reporting, etc.)
- Computer Networking and Video Tools and Methods -Meeting Challenges that Face Small Non-Profit Citizen Groups
- Recruiting and keeping volunteers - Devising and implementing organizational and program strategies
- Public relations (newsletters, media contact, addressing critics, etc.)
- Grassroots Fundraising
- What Color is Your Day Pack? Career Planning and Building a Professional Network

EVALUATION/CONTINUATION

Each participant will be required to complete evaluations of their projects and their experience at regular intervals (typically a mid-term report and final report for each distinct assignment). Also, RC&Ds and SWCDs will be asked to complete participant evaluations, a form evaluating project and participant success based on original stated objectives.

A primary evaluation criterion for the program will be the level to which participants can establish sound, long-term, community based, community-driven conservation and development efforts. Community service will be offered in a support capacity and will not assume tasks best managed by local groups. Though this approach requires patience and time, experience has shown that it proves more effective in the long-run as communities assume a greater sense of stewardship.

Another major goal will be the production, distribution, and implementation of locally-produced conservation/development strategies. In all cases, a comprehensive planning approach will be promoted.

Success will be measured in part by the number of: watersheds and communities served; students, teachers, volunteers, planners, and others influenced and training in the program; - participating attendees at meetings and events; - in-kind matching funds contributed by partners; - reports and other publications produced (including maps) - news stories in local media on local/regional environmental/development issues.

A vital measure of success will be the actual increase in membership and volunteer support.

VERMONT = SCS

MISSION STATEMENT:

To reduce the loss of life and property and improve personal security through the development of fire protection and fire prevention plans for rural areas of Vermont.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVE:

A. Provide increased fire protection in rural areas.

B. Lower fire insurance premiums for rural residents.

PARTICIPANT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE:

A. Provide participants with real world job experiences.

B. Provide training in several aspects of natural resource and watershed management, equipping the participants with skills which are marketable in the private sector.

C. Enhance participant's communications and teamwork ability, develop a strong sense of personal achievement, responsibility, and respect for the environment.

COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVE:

A. Assist Vermont fire departments better protect rural areas from fire.

NEEDS

Rural fire departments in Vermont and all states are rated by an organization called the Independent Services Office (ISO). These ratings take into account the departments' capabilities to suppress fires in an effective and timely manner. These ratings range from 1 to 10, with 10 basically having little or no fire protection. Insurance companies use these ratings to determine the level of premiums to charge their customers for fire insurance. The higher the rating, the higher the premium.

In Vermont there are 25 towns with a 10 rating, 224 with a 9 rating and 12 with ratings of 4 to 8. These 12 are mostly in larger cities. For residential properties, there is a big difference in premiums charged when the ISO rating is reduced from 10 to 9. Reductions between 9 and 7 usually offer no difference for residences, but provide significant differences for commercial properties, schools, and farms.

The Vermont Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils along with the Soil Conservation Service have been providing limited technical assistance to Vermont communities for fire suppression water supplies. This effort, while successful, has just

scratched the surface of the needs in rural Vermont communities. The RC&D Councils and the Soil Conservation Service have completed 7 such plans over the past 8 years. At the present time there are requests from 22 fire departments in Vermont and the list is growing. This project offers real opportunities to provide economic benefits to rural citizens in terms of savings on insurance costs.

PROCESS

A three person technical team (the Americorps Rural Fire Protection Technical Team) will be established to provide assistance to Vermont communities. A director, an information and education coordinator, and an engineer will make up the team. The development of fire protection and fire prevention plans will be a product of the team. On-site training and implementation assistance to install improvements are also a part of the project. The team will be administered by the RC&D councils in Vermont.

Duties of the team members are:

Coordinator/Director Responsible for overall team administration, including developing a plan of work, scheduling, compiling comprehensive community plans, supervision of other specialists, etc.

Information and Education Coordinator: Overall marketing of the project through media, organizations and other appropriate opportunities. Develop training program and tools. Assist individual fire department identify their fire prevention educational needs and implement an innovative strategy to meet them.

Engineer: Overall responsibility for adherence to Soil Conservation Service standards and specifications. Evaluate and design water withdrawal facilities as a part of comprehensive fire protection community plans. Provide technical assistance in installations of planned improvements.

DESIGN CONCEPT

This project is designed to help local communities improve their rural fire protection and prevention capabilities. If funded, the project will be phased in over a period of three years.

The Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force is a strategic partner in this projects. The Task Force is composed of local fire fighters, regional and state economic and community development interests, low income advocates, state-wide fire fighters organizations, insurance company interests, and nationally known fire training experts. The Governor's office has been involved through the Vermont Council on Rural Development. This collaboration will support the Americorps Rural Fire Protection Technical Team to assure successful completion and sustainability of the project.

The project will be overseen by and constantly evaluated by the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force. Adjustments will be made to improve its effectiveness as it progresses.

This project will serve as a model that can be replicated in other states.

ACTIVITIES

Individual fire departments and communities will be contacted on behalf of the Team by the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, and services will be offered to help them prepare comprehensive rural fire protection and prevention plans. Every community has its unique features and its plan will be carefully tailored to meet the locally identified needs. At the same time the development of mutual aid strategies to enhance regional fire protection capabilities will be encouraged.

Examples of services and products that a community could develop with the Team's help might include the following:

- A comprehensive fire *protection* plan to improve the capability of the fire department.
- A comprehensive fire *prevention plan.*
- On-site technical assistance to properly install planned improvements.
- Assistance to plan and implement a strategy to obtain resources for improvements.
- Training and strategies to identify the quantity of water needed, what it is available, and how to move it to accomplish fire control.

Every community in Vermont would have the opportunity to request this assistance. They will be required to establish a local task force that works with the Technical Team to develop their plans and strategies.

TRAINING

Each participant will be provided basic job orientation and community awareness training by the Soil Conservation Service or a cooperating partner. Team members will also be provided with the necessary technical training to enable them to excel in their positions.
Additional specific task-related training will be offered by the appropriate cooperating partner to assure that the job and the individual are matched. Follow-up of each participant will be done by the project director to determine additional training needs and/or help. This follow-up will also help the participant focus on career choices and provide guidance for additional formal training.

ACTIVITIES

The following objectives have been set for the first 12 months:

- Provide the skills and technical information to help 40 rural fire departments in Vermont develop innovative fire protection plans for their communities.

- Help 40 rural fire departments in Vermont fully understand water supply needs and management principles.

- Assist 20 rural Vermont communities find innovative ways to carry out planned improvements.

- Help 10 fire departments in Vermont create and implement a comprehensive educational fire prevention plan with their citizens.

The number of communities assisted will increase greatly in subsequent years as the program is developed. At the end of year three the objective to have reached all 243 fire departments in Vermont.

COOPERATING PARTNERS

Soil Conservation Service

Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development Council

George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Project Summary
New York Americorps Project SCS

The New York Americorps Projects would employ five participants. The focus of the project is ecosystem protection through the application of Geographic Information System technology.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To use Geographical Information Systems for farmland protection, open space protection, stream corridor preservation and restoration, urban greenway development, wellhead protection, and other natural resource based decisions for the Seneca Nation and surrounding areas.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVE:

A. Assist the Seneca Nation of Indians and Erie County, New York, develop and implement a GIS database resource inventory for land use planning and resource management.

PARTICIPANT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE:

A. Provide participants with real world job experiences. Recruit as many Native American and minority youth as possible.

B. Provide training in several aspects of natural resource and watershed management, equipping the participants with skills which are marketable in the private sector. Participants can expect to develop a high level of technical skill **in** computer and GIS operation.

C. Enhance participant's communications and teamwork ability, develop a strong sense of personal achievement and responsibility, and develop a respect for the environment.

COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVE:

A. Assist the Seneca Nation and surrounding areas manage their land for growing populations.

B. Provide coordination and assistance with ongoing GIS activates in surrounding areas.

NEEDS

The project is centered in Erie County and the Sovereign Lands of the Seneca Nation. Included in this area are 3 cities, 25 towns, the Tonawanda Indian Reservation, the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation, the Allegany Indian Reservation and the Oil Springs Indian Reservation. The total population is just under one million.

Data for land use planning and resource management is available but is often neither organized nor understood. The Senaca Nation, in particular, is struggling to manage its limited land holdings while accomodating the pressure of an increasing population.

Project participants will assist in developing and implementing a GIS system for the Seneca Nation which will be used for farmland protection, open space protection, stream corridor preservation and restoration, urban greenway development, wellhead protection, identification and protection of critical environmental areas and scenic resources, and general pollution prevention. This information will be coordinated and integrated with similar projects in the surrounding area.

The project will be particularly beneficial in helping communities deal with weltand protection, farmland preservation in a climate of increasing urban development pressure, and redevelopment of community infrastructure.

Five Americorps participants would work on the project.

PROCESS

New York's efforts will focus on GIS data management and resource analysis. Participants will coordinate GIS activities with involved communities and other organizations and agencies.

The Soil Conservation Service's East Aurora field office staff, as the project planners, will provide supervision and consult directly with the communities served to gather data and explain key components of various activities.

The project will build on the existing "Seneca Nation of Indians Cultural Resources Inventory," a $44,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This grant, administered through the Soil Conservation Service, was to demonstrate the use of GIS and imaging for protection of cultural resources. The funded phase is completed though numerous additional tasks have been identified as a result.

DESIGN CONCEPT

The project is designed to improve technology-based natural resource management decisions. The area chosen is under environmental and social stress and would be replicable in many sections of the country. Participants will serve at the field level in an area that is at the forefront of natural resource management technology.

The project is also designed as a model or reinventing government - all levels of government. By providing appropriate information, tools, and technology for resource management directly to community like the Seneca Nation of Indians, the project will inspire and empower community representatives, professional staff, and individual citizens to become more directly involved in local land use decisions.

The "information highway" needs to reach all levels of the community to be effective and GIS technology is an important vehicle for collecting and distributing data to the people who need it and can use it best.

ACTIVITIES

Participants will be involved in digitizing data layers including: * Digital elevation models (electronic topographic maps) for the Seneca Nation of Indians; * Cultural and historic data soil maps for approximate 400,000 acres in Erie County; * Farmland and open space protection data (in support of the County Fannland Protection Plan project currently underway);

- Farm and recreation pond inventory;
- Wetlands;
- Stream corridor protection zones and greeenway projects;
- Conservation easement areas (Western New York Land Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, etc.);
- Targeted soil erosion control areas;
- Bluebird trails; and
- American chestnut restoration project plantings.

TRAINING

Each participant will be provided the following training by either the Soil Conservation Service or a cooperating partner:

- Basic job orientation and community awareness - Total Quality Management - Computer System Administration and Operation - Introductory GIS
- GRASS GIS operations
- Line Trace Plus (map digitizing)
- MagGen (map printing)

- Soil and Water Conservation Planning for New Employees

- On-the-job training in GIS Inventory and Evaluation and Practice Design.

Additional specific task-related training will be offered by the appropriate cooperating partner to assure that the job and the individual are matched. Follow-up of each participant will be done by the project director to determine additional training needs and/or help. This follow-up will also help the participant focus on career choices and provide guidance for additional formal training.

COOPERATING PARTNERS

- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Indian Health Services
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- Seneca Trails Resource Conservation and Development Area
- Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

Individual Site Application #25
Rural Development
Appalachia (KY----

Number of participants:

Needs To Be Met

Poverty in the Caucasian communities of the Southern Highlands of Appalachia. As reported in the Washington Post article, "War on Poverty: Three Decades and No Victory," by Guy Gugliotta (December 12, 1993), "The symptoms of hardship in America -- ignorance, unemployment, sickness, isolation, crime and drugs -- are still as visible in the hardwood-cloaked hollows of East Kentucky as they are in the asphalt wastes of East Harlem." The problems of Appalachia are almost cliche. Whatever we, as a society, have done for and to Appalachia, it has not been nearly enough. Out-and-out poverty, both economic and of the spirit, have blighted the region defying attempts at solution. Changing economies have left a legacy of environmental degradation that must be dealt with before re-development can take place. Infrastructure needs are spotty and not regionally addressed. The region's residents must be given back their destinies so that real and lasting change for the better can happen.

The AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Solution

Rural Development Team members will furnish critical community organizing skills to groups who can apply for rural development programs. These community organizational skills will help rural residents organize themselves into such things as non-profit organizations, improvement districts, or even municipalities so that these entities can more easily leverage funding necessary to build diversified communities. A key organizational component will be to seek out and assist disenfranchised and low-income residents and help establish them as participants in the larger community. Infrastructure needs will be handled through partnerships with the Forest Service, RDA, and FmHA.

RDT members will work to implement the new Empowerment Zone & Enterprise Community Initiative by serving as resident community and rural development experts in each designated community. They will work with economically and socially disadvantaged rural residents to use appropriate programs through cooperative efforts with other USDA agencies, and collaborate with all Federal, State, local, private sector and not-for profit organizations to help diversify local economies. RDT members will be on-site to establish themselves as small business planning developers and information brokers with FmHA, ACS, AMS and other market-oriented organizations to assist in the assessment and development of markets for unique local products.

Tourism as a regional strategy has been talked about, but not addressed as a vital component of an holistic approach. RDT members will try to fill that need. Some of the individual project descriptions already identified follow this section and cover efforts from water quality and water supply to economic diversification and data base construction.

SCS PROPOSAL FOR APPALACHIA AMERICORPS

The five proposed Appalachian stat's are: Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee and, northern portions of Georgia and Alabama. Individuals from low-income households will receive the greatest benefit from the assistance that will be provided by AmeriCorps participants. All projects will help improve the environment, make local land users more knowledgeable about their surroundings and help prepare them to be more "environmentally responsible," while not jeopardizing already marginal income levels. The rural areas in each state are marked by lush vegetation, rolling hills and a fragile ecosystem that supports a traditional way of life under financial conditions that most residents find difficult.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission is two-fold in that two primary groups will be ultimate beneficiaries of this comprehensive project. AmeriCorps will assist low-income rural residents with technical assistance and labor-intensive help in a wide variety of activities to improve living conditions, quality of life and the environment. Members of Americorps teams will receive ongoing intensive training provided by the Soil Conservation Service and partners benefit from the lessons learned from residents who have adapted to difficult living conditions.

NARRATIVE:

PRIMARY NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

Management of water resources is a concern throughout the region in both rural and urban areas. Stream banks need to be preserved, riparian corridors must be protected and the negative effects of livestock on the soils and water must be minimized.

Rural residents need assistance in representing themselves before governmental bodies at all levels. A major requirement is for individuals with the time and knowledge to assemble information necessary for obtaining assistance and to help prepare proposals that will result in effective projects.

Alternative sources of income must be pursued for residents in all states. Partnerships with associations of producers of agricultural products must be cultivated to improve options for generating income in depressed areas.

Recreation and tourism as alternative sources of income need full study.

Land users need more in-field technical assistance in crop management, use of pesticides, soil testing, weed scouting and many other specialized skill areas.

Young residents need to know more about land-use practices that can address local environmental concerns.

Part-time and limited resource farmers need to use the most effective practices and management skills that result in the maximum yield from their efforts within the limits of the amount and quality of their land.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

This is an ambitious project that includes a broad range of sites with a wide variety of objectives. The overall project manager must be centrally located, knowledgeable about many types of potential site projects and communicate effectively with many constituent groups.

The Project Director is located in Nashville, Tennessee. The city of Nashville is centrally located within the region that will be served. It is a major metropolitan area that serves as the hub for several airlines. Transportation to and from Nashville is convenient and should afford access to AmeriCorps participants or their families in the event of an emergency. The location also gives the project director access to all other sites within a few hours travel by land. No other metropolitan area within a six-state area has any better access to the Interstate Highway System.

The project director knows all key Soils Conservation Service staff throughout the region and has the management and technical skills to provide direction and oversee the administration of the project.

Adequate time has been allocated from the project director's schedule to oversee the AmeriCorps operation throughout the six state area.

LOCATIONS IDENTIFIED

Locations for the thirty participants have been selected by Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service staff. Each position was selected on the basis of need of community or residents of the region to be served, the degree to which AmeriCorps participants would meet with a challenging and rewarding experience, and degree to which project staff could provide the support and direction necessary to ensure a successful, and memorable experience for each participant.

The numbers of Americorps participants selected to work in any one geographic area are based on the amount of effort that would be mutually rewarding while not disturbing the natural environment of the community receiving the assistance. Typically these are projects with few participants requiring a carefully planned orientation and feed back from project staff at regular intervals.

Following is a listing of the specific locations and functions that AmeriCorps participants will be assigned.

Tennessee Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council Deklalb, Jackson, Marshall, Madison, Limestone, Lawrence, Morgan and Cullman counties in Alabama. This is a highly rural heavily forested region in the north central and north eastern part of the state.

illustrates the fact that manufacturing has become a losing industry in this economy. Just under 45 percent of those without jobs in early 1992 were manufacturing employees, and reports of future lay-offs and job losses as companies continue to cut back means that this number may increase.

One (1) AmeriCorps participant will serve as the New River Highlands RC&D outreach Coordinator to create an outreach program to focus attention on the water quality and forestry activities of the council and its resource committees. The outreach coordinator would be responsible to develop and implement a newsletter for the council, forestry resource committee and the Middle Fork Holston River Water Quality Committee. The outreach coordinator would develop informational programs and present them to local groups. Press releases and media coverage of the councils activities would fall within the job experience.

The outreach coordinator would also assist these groups in preparing newsletters, training volunteers to assume the responsibilities of editor, develop mailing list and funding sources.

Audiovisual programs would be developed for specific projects and general information activities of the RC&:D council. The Outreach coordinator would develop the programs and make presentations to civic groups and special interest groups.

- Tidewater Forestry Products

  The Tidewater RC&D includes the ten-county area that is basically east of Route 95 to the Chesapeake Bay, south of the Fredricksburg area and north of the York River. Most of the counties are extremely rural in character. Historically employment has been available in the agriculture, forestry and seafood industries. With the decline in productivity of the Chesapeake Bay due to environmental and disease problems the watermen and related seafood industry are facing severe economic problems. Unemployment and poverty is high in the majority of the counties. In 1993 the eastern most counties averaged unemployment rates of 11.2 percent with a high of 19.3 per cent in the winter months. Some of the skilled labor force commute two to three hours one way to more developed areas to find employment. With the decline in the seafood industry due to environmental and disease problems in the Chesapeake Bay many watermen are seeking alternative employment. The employment that is available is primarily unskilled which results in most of the college educated youth leaving the area to find employment.

The Forestry Committee of the Tidewater RC&D Council is exploring the development of alternative sources of employment and income for this region by expanding the variety of forestry products that are marketed. There are 863,397 acres of woodland in the RC&D area which is 65% of the land use. Much of the land is harvested by major corporations which focus on a single product. more diversification and greater utilization of wood products is needed which will result in improving the existing economic condition. The first state of this project will be accomplished by sponsoring work sessions for professional foresters including consultants and industry in which a marketing plan will be developed. The second stage is to implement this plan.

One (1) Forestry intern will help expand the markets available for forestry products produced in the area which should result in a broader base of employment opportunities in the forestry industry.

The AmeriCorps participant will help develop a marketing plan for forestry products and promote the full use of forestry plans including installation of Best Management Practices.

- Marion Virginia Greenway

  Over the past decade, population within this Smyth County area has decreased by 1.6%. The median age in the 1990 Census was 37.3 years. Survey information reveals that officials believe the loss of young people from the area is a very significant problem for the future of the region. This feature of the area ties together the rising median age and the loss of population in the region. Young people apparently feel that they cannot live and work productively here and are moving away to leave the older, more established citizens behind.

The region's unemployment rates are consistently in excess of the state and national averages. In 1992, the state average was 6.0, while the region showed an average of 7.5 percent. Manufacturing jobs as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment which come from the manufacturing sector illustrates the fact that manufacturing has become a losing industry in this economy. Just under 45 percent of those without jobs in early 1992 were manufacturing employees, and reports of future lay-offs and job losses as companies continue to cut back means that this number may increase.

One (1) AmeriCorps participant would assist the local partners that include the Grassroots Conservancy, Smyth County and Evergreen SWCD and several State agencies in establishing a greenway through the Town of Marion, Virginia along with the middle Fork Holston River. The project will include developing detailed plans for the greenway and securing general public support for the project. The design for the project will include detail drawing and specification for all components of the trail.

The Grassroots Conservancy started work on the Marion Greenway project in 992. They have secured three segments of the proposed trail and developed approximately 0.6 miles of the trail. The Grassroots Conservancy have identified the need to develop a detailed plan for the entire greenway to enable them to secure funding for implementation. using the plans and information provided through this project the Grassroots Conservancy would secure the necessary land rights to connect the existing segments and complete improvements to the existing segments.

The project manager would generate locale support for the greenway project by conducting public meetings to secure citizen input to the project, making presentations to civic groups, and school groups. Local support would be gained through their input to the planning and design of the greenway project.

The Grassroots Conservancy is continuing to improve the 3 segments of the trail that they now have control of and the project manager would supervise this work.

The project is located in the Town of Marion, in Smyth County, Virginia. The project office would be located in Town of Marion Municipal Building, 138 West Main St., Marion, VA. The greenway project would follow the Middle Fork Holston River as it flows through the Town of Marion.

- Tidewater Geographic Information System

  The Tidewater RC&D includes the ten county area that is basically east of Route 95 to the Chesapeake Bay, south of the Fredricksburg area and north of the York River. Most of the counties are extremely rural in character. There are no major cities within the area.

Historically employment has been available in the a agriculture, forestry and seafood industries. With the decline in productivity of the Chesapeake Day due to environmental and disease problems the watermen and related seafood industry are facing severe economic problems. Unemployment and poverty is high in the majority of the counties. In 1993 the eastern most counties averaged unemployment rates of 11.2 percent with a high of 19.3 per cant in the winter months. Some of the skilled labor force commutes two to three hours one way to more developed areas to find employment. With the decline in the seafood industry due to environmental and disease problems in the Chesapeake Bay many watermen are seeking alternative employment. The employment that is available is primarily unskilled which results in most of the college educated youth leaving the area to find employment.

Under the leadership of the Virginia State Geographic Information Specialist, one (1) AmeriCorps participant will be responsible for creating a fully functional (Geographic Information System) for the Tidewater RC&D Council. software are currently available, however, without staff specifically assigned to loading and performing the initial geographic analysis, the system does not provide the support that the RC&D Council needs.

The employee will load existing geographic and tabular data to create the basic data base. Then at least 4 specific projects will be completed using the GIS system that will support ongoing projects include:

1) Dry Fire hydrants - digitize the location of existing locate in the computer the sites where future hydrants are needed.

   The benefits of the dry hydrant project are improving the ability of rural voluntary fire departments to fight fires, improving public safety and conserving fuel used during fires.

2) Retail farmers market - digitize the location of existing retail farmers markets and produce a map that easily locates them.

This project is to improve the income of retail farmers market by producing a brochure that provides a map and directions to the local sources of produce. The completion of the product also aids the Northern Neck Tourism Accreditation Process which is promoting rural tourism to expand the economic and employment base of the region.

3) Shellfish condemnation - digitize the location of shellfish demnations and produce a map that easily identifies concentrations of blems that the RC&D Council may wish to target.

4) Generate basic tabular and digital analysis of statistical data for the RC&D Council area that will be utilized as the supportive element for future projects.

Georgia (2)

- Water Quality Protection, Scenic Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

Mountain streams and rivers grace the landscape of the Blue Ridge Mountain area of northern Georgia serving in both a scenic capacity and as a natural resource. Because the mountain sides are steep and rugged, farmers that settled this area turned to the rich and fertile valleys for agricultural operations. The cleared area of most of the broad valleys and many of the smaller ones often extend to the streams' banks.

Agriculture continues to dominate in these valleys today. Row crop production is not as great as it once was, but still exist as does livestock production. However this mountain region is very rapidly becoming a major tourist and recreation area as well as becoming more heavily populated with people taking advantage of the natural beauty.

For reasons, whether to gain as much "usable" land as possible or to reduce competition of natural vegetation for light and water, vegetation is still often removed up to the stream banks. When this vegetation is removed, and particularly when livestock tramples the banks, stream banks are much more susceptible to erosion. Heavy rains cause severe erosion to significant areas of streambanks. As well as putting countless tons of sediments into the streams, it leaves streambanks raw allowing continued erosion potential.

Natural vegetation, and particularly forest vegetation, is a very effective filter of runoff water. When agricultural lands are adjacent to streams with no natural filter strips between, any runoffs can go directly into streams. If this runoff contains nutrient and pesticides used in agricultural production, then they too can enter into the streams impairing the water quality and destroying aquatic habitats.

Another adverse affect of removing the natural vegetation along these streams is the impact that it has on both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Stream corridors are one of the most active and diverse natural environments which exist. Most animals have to have a supply of fresh water to exist. When natural vegetation is removed this limits their ability to get to these water supplies safely, thus most species will leave in search of a more suitable habitat.

Fish are also adversely affected, especially trout. Removing the vegetation along the streams opens up the streams and allows more sunlight to reach the water thus warming the water temperatures so that they are not conducive to trout.

To over come the damages that have occurred and to prevent future degradation streambanks need to be stabilized, livestock need to be excluded and stream corridors need to be reestablished.

To apply the conservation practices needed would be an economic hard ship on most of these land owners, and since resolving these problems would be a great benefit to society, it is proposed that assistance in applying the more labor intensive practices be made available to address this situation.

Two (2) AmeriCorps participants will work in the following areas:

1) Streambank stabilization - Use of rock rip-rap is suggested along eroded stream bank areas where natural woody vegetation cannot be established to accomplish needed erosion control.

2) Riparian corridor/filter strips - Natural vegetation, particularly trees and shrub species, need to be maintained or established along the streams course with a minimum width of 15 feet on each side of the stream.

3) Livestock exclusion - Fences will need to be established to keep livestock out of the riparian corridor and off of the stream banks. Allowances should be made in some situations for cross fencing to get better distribution of livestock and less potential for overgrazing and erosion.

4) Livestock water facilities - As livestock will be excluded from streams an alternate water supply will need to be supplied. This should be in the form of spring seep developments, ponds, or pipelines and troughs. If none of these alternatives are feasible then a watering gap could be created which will provide a minimal area of access to the stream, this would be less desirable than the other alternatives.

5) Stream crossings - Restricted crossing areas will be established if it is necessary because of land ownership to get livestock from one side of the stream to the other.

6) Management practices - Non costshared management practices as needed to maintain the integrity of the project would be required of participating landowners.

Most of the practices could be installed at minimal cost if labor cost could be eliminated. This project proposes making expertise available to asset landowners with layout and installation. State or national labor pools could be utilized. No special educational background would be required.

Technical assistance and guidance and supervision will be provided by the SCS in conjunction and cooperation with soil and water conservation districts. Other agencies will be consulted as needed.

Alabama (2)

The project is located in the Tennessee Valley, Appalachian counties of Alabama. These include the north central and northern counties of Dekalb,Jackson, Marshall, Madison, Limestone, Lawrence, Morgan and Cullman. The major land.use within the project areas is forest land. Forests cover appropriately 45% of the area. Agriculture, primarily cotton in the valley and poultry and livestock in the mountain areas account for the majority of farm sales. Unemployment levels are higher than the state average while the education levels and medium family income levels are lower than the state average*With the exception of Madison County (Huntsville) the area is predominantly rural.

Most rural communities in North Alabama are changing. Those near large cities are experiencing rapid, many time unregulated, suburban sprawl. However, the majority of the rural area is seeing a gradual decline in population and a reduction in the number and variety of small business that make rural living desirable. No one likes to drive 20 miles just to go a grocery store or a hardware store. The primary reason for rural decline is the fact that high school and college graduates are forced to leave here because the farms and small communities offer few employment opportunities. Also, the limited availability of basic quality of life necessities contribute to rural decline. To reverse these trends, projects that offer supplemental or new rural and agricultural income and projects that improve the quality of life in rural areas are needed.

To address this need the Tennessee Valley Resource conservation and Development Council (RC&D) is actively working on a number of projects. However, due to the lack of funding and low Council operating budgets, the Council has a desperate need of at least one employee who would serve as the hands-on-representative of the Council to ensure the completion of the projects.

Two (2) AmeriCorps participants will have invaluable "Hands on" environmental and rural development opportunities. Both projects managers will oversee the details of a diverse multi-county resource conservation and development/environmental project managers will work with community groups, individual businesses and governmental units in order to facilitate positive development in the rural areas of North Alabama. Examples of the type projects involved are as follows:

Agribusiness Development	- commercial rabbitry
	- aquaculture
	- shittake mushrooms
	- recycled newspapers for poultry bedding
Environmental	- environmental education classrooms
	- water quality/lagoon renovations
	-composting agriculture & municipal wastes

- dry hydrants for rural fire protection
- strategic planning for community development

Tennessee (17)

0 Environmental Education

While centralized in the RC&D office at Cookeville, Tennessee, the project The area is located within the Hull-York Lakeland Resource Conservation and Development Project, is located in north central Tennessee. It covers 14 counties and contains 3,193,480 acres. The project boundary is compatible with the Upper Cumberland Development District, the regional planning body for units of local government.

Many problems affect the social and economic growth of the area, including underdeveloped land and water resources, flooding, and undeveloped industrial, recreation and transportation potential. Per capita income for the area in 1992 was $11,164 as compared to $13,696 for Tennessee and $15,255 for the United States. Twentyone percent of the households had income of less than $10,000. For Tennessee the rate was 16.4 percent and for the U.S. the rate was 12.5 percent. The area continues to be below the state and nation in educational opportunities. In 1989 the average expenditure per pupil in the 14 county area was $2,755. For Tennessee the rate was $3,304. Additionally, only 47 percent of those graduating from high school continue their education as compared to 58.7 percent for the state. The area is part of appalachia and several counties are designated as distressed by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, The Tennessee Valley Authority and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Seven (5) AmeriCorps participants above-average communications skills will be working with a broad group of people at all education levels from every socioeconomic group. They will also work closely with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the HullYork Lakeland Resource Conservation and Development Association,

the Upper Cumberland Development District, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, civic groups, schools and local government bodies throughout the fourteen county area. Major duties would be divided approximately equally between solid waste/ recycling and environmental education. Each of the participants would:

With the passage of the Tennessee Solid Waste Management Act of 1991, units of county government must implement a solid waste system which:

Provides at least one site to receive and store waste tires, used automotive oils and fluids, and lead-acid batteries.

Provide one or more sites for collection of recyclable materials.

Reduces by twenty-five percent the amount of solid waste disposed of at municipal solid waste disposal facilities.

Includes liners, leachate collection pools, and ground water monitoring wells at each approved landfill. This requirement alone is expected to increase the cost of solid waste disposal by $150,000-$200,000 per year per county.

A person is needed to work closely with the Upper Cumberland Development District, the regional planning agencies for the area, and the 14 units of county government to implement the requirements of the act.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The second area in which the selected person would work would be in environmental education. This would involve working closely with schools, civic groups, units of local and state government and others to promote greater awareness of natural resources and environmental issues throughout the 14 county area.

0 Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Tourism

The project is located in the central northeast counties of
Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union in Tennessee.

Three (3) AmeriCorps participants, (1) - Planner, (1) marketer/Trainer and (1) Recruiter will help the establish the following to promote specialty recreation and tourism in the Clinch-Powell region.

These are some of the wide range of activities which could be developed into a significant visitor draw. Much work could begin almost immediately and economic benefits realized through day trips from metropolitan regions within driving distance until necessary infrastructure could be developed including Bed Breakfasts.

0 Chicksaw-Shiloh Water Quality

The overall poverty rate for the area is well above the state's average of 12.49%. Poverty rates range from 12.6% to 24% within the area. Educational levels are a major concern in the area. Forty-three percent of the adult population has no education past high school.

Two (2) AmeriCorps positions are proposed. The first would serve as a water quality technician monitoring and overseeing the Councils traveling gun irrigation system. The second person would be responsible for developing and delivering environmental education programs to elementary school students in the area.

0 Humpherys County Environmental Education Center

The project conception began with a group of concern citizens, organizations, and agencies in 1991 because of continuing requests made to the Soil Conservation District for outdoor activities's from schools and organizations. A need for trail opportunities with emphasIs on environmental concerns was identified in the Soil Conservation District long range plan. A

steering committee was organized which included private citizens, industry, government agencies, civic organizations, school teachers, local and state Department of Education, and local businesses. Those assisting with initial plans were as follows:

Soil Conservation District
Provided oversight and administration of the project

Soil Conservation Service
Provide technical and educational assistance for installation of agriculture Best Ynnagement Practices

Five-Rivers Resource conservation and Development
Provide technical and financial assistance

Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Provide technical and financial assistance

Tennessee Division of Forestry: Provide technical and educational assistance labor and equipment on forest Best Management Practices

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Provide technical and educational assistance on Pest Management Practices

E.I. DuPont Company
Provide financial and technical assistance on environmental education projects

Humphreys County Board of Education
Provide teacher in-service and assistance on development of educational materials

Humphreys County Highway Department
Provide equipment and labor for installation Management
of Best Management Practices

Izaak Walton League
Provide water quality training and technical assistance

U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Provide technical assistance and equipment and labor for installation of Best Management Practices

First American Bank of Waverly
Provide financial advise and assistance

Humphreys County Executive
Provide financial advise and assistance

Humphreys County Chamber of Commerce
Provide financial advise and support for the project

Citizen Volunteers
Provide labor, equipment, and support for the project

The steering committee, identified the needs and desires of the community, developed a concept with short and long range goals and developed strategies for funding and development of the project. The project has received an overwhelming, very broad base of support from the community and surrounding area. Many planning meetings have been held to continue to get citizen and organization input as the project has developed. The steering committee will continue to monitor the project and provide guidance in its development.

Two (2) AmeriCorps participants would help the project provide easily accessible trails to the disabled and older citizens who are not able to use those trails presently existing in the community. Plans are being developed for level trails, hardsurfaced trails, handicapped and senior citizen parking, and improved access to trails to accommodate busses and autos. Also included will be benches along the trails and designated rest stops.

The project will provide educational and recreational opportunities to minorities and economically disadvantaged at no cost. The County has been designated as economically depressed -- one of the highest unemployment rates in the State. The project will provide recreational opportunities near home for many economically disadvantaged households.

While serving the disabled, senior citizen and the economically disadvantaged, this project will also make available these educational and recreational opportunities to minorities -- (blacks, Hispanics, and women) and special grouts and organizations such as: group homes, civic organizations, teachers for teacher in-service, student groups for field days and demonstrations, 4-H judgement team training, 7-Hawks Wilderness Rehabilitation Program., summer youth on-job-training program, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for their badge programs, and many others.

0 Bent Creek Watershed

This watershed is located in the Appalachian region of rural East Tennessee. The average farm size is about 30 acres. The main farm enterprises are beef cattle and tobacco. The per capita income is 11,069. Most of farm jobs are in furniture manufacturing in Morristown, the County seat of Hamblen county.

The Bent Creek Watershed is an approximately 30,307 acre watershed that drains into the Nolichucky River. TVA and SCS have completed an in depth study to determine the major sources of non-point pollution as well as factors effecting aquatic habitat. Sediment, animal waste and loss of riparian habitat are all contributors to water quality problems. Direct livestock access has been identified as a major cause of the above mentioned problems. These problems are effecting eater quality in Bent Creek, The Nolichucky River and Douglas Reservoir. Approximately nine endangered and threatened species, mainly fresh water mussels and small fish, are being affected by these conditions. TVA has done an excellent job of identifying these

problem areas on USGS Quad sheets with mylar overlays. It would be very simple to overlay these on ASCS maps to get names and addresses of people who would be eligible for conservation assistance.

One (1) AmeriCorps participant would serve as a non-point source contact technician. The individual would assist agencies and institutions that have an interest in agriculture and conservation. These include the Hamblen and Hawkins Soil Conservation Districts, SCS, University of Tennessee Extension Service, Walters State Community College, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency and TVA.

This Americorps position would train and supervise an individual to go the field and contact all the land owners in the watershed. This person would be trained to help land owners know the benefits of installing practices, the variety of sources of assistance and the people to contact for follow-up. There is a great deal of resistance to some practices like fencing creeks and it's going to take time and personal contact to change attitudes. T@4-s can be an excellent way to begin the process.

0 Woodland Community land Trust

The Woodland Community Land Trust (WCLT) is a community-based, grass-roots nonprofit organization. we operate a rural-, community land trust in Roses Creek Holow which is part of the larger city of the Clearfork Valley in northeastern Tennessee. WCLT was organized in 1977 and is a citizen's response to the corporate land ownership and corporate industrial investments that leave people landless and land lifeless.

WCLT has a land base of 150 acres plus 112 acres on timberland managed for the University of Tennessee (*a land grant college). These land has been developed from a plan that interfaces a new model for a rural settlement with a new *@el for a forest management/timber development.

Appalachia (TN, KY, GA, VA, WV, NC)

Rural Tourism:

Rural tourism efforts have been underway in this region featuring recreational and aesthetic opportunities. Local partners have needs for tour guides with interpretive skills, recreation planners, tourism surveys, and marketing. The AmeriCorps participant would work directly with government and non-profit organizations such as Appalachian Regional Commission to provide these skills and services to local communities and the region in general.

Economic Development Coordinators:

Another need identified in this area is to hire professional Economic Development Coordinators who would seek business development opportunities for an area. Business students could work with these professionals and local communities. Environmental students could work in these areas to identify issues of environmental concern with related new business ventures.

AmeriCorps participants could work with State Rural Development Councils to identify needs and target projects. Communities with demonstrated need, based on demographic and census data, would be contacted. AmeriCorps specialists would be assigned to projects depending on identified needs and priorities.

Prior to placement, the AmeriCorps volunteer would receive training in sustainable economic and leadership principles. Existing training modules and consultant services would be utilized to provide training and meterials for field application. Participating communities will identify a community contact person who will work directly them.

Wood Utilization:

Working with state forestry organizations, an opportunities exists for an AmeriCorps participant to work with professional Wood Utilization Foresters. The objective would be to promote alternative wood products and value added manufacturing technologies.

Working under the direction of the State Forester, this AmeriCorps participant would provide technology transfer to local communties as requested. One potential customer would be the RC&D councils in developing Forestry Measure Plans. Another activity would be assistance to the state utilization forester in marketing, analysis and training in forest products, conservation, and recycling.

Projected Accomplishments:

Desired outcomes will be to assist (6) government and/or non-profit organizations in implementation of existing and proposed local initiatives.

West Virginia

Program Summary:

AmeriCorps - Rural Development Corps
Developing Sustainable Economies in West Virginia Communities

Needs to be Met

Environment

Development of community-based sustainable economic development strategies using renewable natural resources in ways that protect and enhance the environment is the primary need to be met by this program. Corps members will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives, provide technical assistance in analyzing these alternatives, and work with community and business leaders to implement essential projects that lead to sustainable economic activity. Corps members will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities.

Corps members will provide technical support in a wide variety of areas to existing rural businesses and entrepreneurs wishing to start businesses. Activities will focus on enhancing production of value-added products from forest resources, helping rural communities capitalize on travel and tourism opportunities, developing businesses based on recycled products, and supporting development of community-based economic development organizations.

Education

Corp memebers will be working in a mentored environment where professional Forest Service and State Forester's staff provide guidance and direction. Training will focus on developing interpersonal skills, collaborative planning skills, group involvement skills, consensus building skill, and meeting management skills. Corp members will be utilizing their technical skills in a real world environment. They will learn much about the decision-making process in rural communities and how to help diverse groups reach consensus on difficult issues.

Human Needs

Corp members will become part of a team effort to assist rural communities in making informed decisions as citizens identify, develop and implement sustainable economic development strategies. Corps members will be asked to apply their technical skills in real world situations which will affect the future of the communities in which they work. This involvement at the local level will familiarize Corp members with the resources, needs, and aspirations of rural communities and increase their awareness of rural people. These efforts will improve the decision-making capabilities of the Corps members, and provide new experiences to broaden their cultural awareness.

Corps member activities are expected to have a significant positive impact on the economy of rural West Virginia. The technical expertise that Corps members will bring to bear in assisting existing businesses will help them become more competitive in both domestic and international markets. Targeted market research efforts will identify new products, business development efforts will improve the use of technology, updated management systems, improved advertising/sales techniques, and worker training programs implemented on-site will help improve business profitability and competitiveness. Business growth, job creation, and increased opportunities for value-added manufacturing opportunities will result. Corps members will also support the development of home-based and micro-businesses. Corps members will help prepare business plans, assist in the preparation of financing packages, assist in grantwriting, and develop micro-loan programs in rural communities to help generate successful small businesses.

Program Design

Corps members will be living in Morgantown, WV and working thoughout the State. Rental housing assistance is available through the West Virginia University housing placement service. Travel and per diem expenses will be paid when overnight travel is required. When project work requires extended travel periods, arrangements have been made for housing at State Parks and college campuses throughout the State.

Program Elements

Self-confidence and practical experience in project planning, group process, consensus building, team work, multi-cultural awareness, and in natural resource based sustainable economic development will be gained from this program. Work experience will involve a variety of technical efforts done in conjunction with a variety of partners. This includes designing, producing, mailing and analyzing five broad-based surveys aimed at a determining community needs such as improvement in manufacturing base, market characteristics, demographics, etc. These will provide the basis for 15 needs assessments, one for each of the 15 counties served. From these, about 30 market research projects will be undertaken with new and existing businesses looking at what these companies are producing and what they are capable of producing, what new sales opportunities may exist or be potentially available. These will lead the the development of about 15 business plans. Five infrastructure improvement projects will be planned, and designed aimed at transportation facilities, industrial and building facilities such as dust control systems, timber bridges and multi-modal transportation facilities. Ten worker training programs will be designed and implemented. These will address employment and management needs. Approximately 15 financing plans will be developed for small businesses, and 10 revolving loan funds will be established. Ten community foundations will be established and 15 counties will be given grantwriting assistance. Additional work experience will be gained in group decision-making, consensus building, and grass roots planning processes.

Recruitment Goals

Our primary recruitment goal is to identify college students from rural West Virginia that are enrolled as juniors, seniors, or graduate students in West Virginia colleges or universities, or students from West Virginia that are attending out-of-state schools, that wish to gain appropriate job experience. Contacts have been developed with administrative offices at schools in West Virginia and with high school counselors throughout the State to identify likely candidates. We will also contact 1890 Schools to determine student interest in participating in this program. We hope to create a diverse crew workforce through these strategies.

Administering Organization

The USDA Forest Service's Northeastern Area will be the administering organization. Currently, we hire many summer interns for a variety of activities. This program will be an extension of that effort. Our emphasis to to provide practical experience within the framework of community-based economic development. Such practical experience should improve the employability of the Corps members. This practical experience will be supported by specific training designed to meet the needs of the Corps members in working with community-based economic development.

Program Partners

The program will be run in cooperation with a variety of partners. These partners will assist in planning, coordination, training, implementation, and monitoring the program. These program partners are:

The West Virginia Rural Develpment Council
The West Virginia Development Office
The West Virginia Division of Forestry
The Appalachian Hardwood Center at West Virginia Univeristy
Northeastern Forest Experiment Station
Small Business Development Centers
Business and MBA programs at West Virginia colleges and universities
West Virginia Division of Tourism
Cooperative Extension Service
West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Program
West Virginia county governments

Participant Benefits

Each participant will receive:
Stipend
End of program scholarship
Room and meals
Housing subsidy
Critical work expwerience in their major field
Transportation to and from work site

example, many persons are unable to work due to child care needs. An AmeriCorp participant would work with community leaders to develop practical solutions.

Other predominately black colleges such as Rust have provided leadership workshops for minority communities to build capacity. AmeriCorp participants could work side by side with rural sociologists and other experts in these fields to develop and disseminate this information. Additionally a study could address the social changes needed to improve the economy of the region and begin implementation plans for practical solutions.

The Black Belt studies initiated at North Carolina State University could provide opportunities to implement social changes needed to improve the economy of the region. A graduate student could utilize this opportunity to prepare a thesis and develop implementation plans for practical solutions.

Projected Accomplishments:

Emphasis on this location is on Outreach efforts for all three (3) projects. Twenty-nine (29) counties in three (3) states will be contacted. Desired outcomes are (3) Wood in Transportation fabrication projects serving multi-county areas, (5) recycling initiatives, and (12) economic development and leadership workshops.

Unemployment is high education and income levels are lower than average within the state. Two AmeriCorps participants will oversee details of a diverse multi-county resource conservation and development program that will include agribusiness development, community planning, and water resource management.

Woodland Community Land Trust (WCLT) and the Whitley County Communities For Children - These projects - located in Tennessee and Kentucky respectively - will serve rural, low income communities. Six AmeriCorps will offer assistance in training in intensive grazing, livestock rasing and care, and marketing farm products. They will also assist in improving farm and community land management among the residents. In addition, there will be an emphasis of developing skills among young residents.

Water Quality Protection, Scenic and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement - Two AmeriCorps participants will serve in this remote and rugged area of Georgia to help rural farm owners gain more usable land from property while controlling erosion along stream banks and hillside areas. Low-cost controls for minimizing nonpoint sources of water pollution, improving management of livestock and restoring natural vegetation, especially along streams will be expanded.

West Virginia (3)

- Soils Conservation Project
  The counties of Tyler, Wetzel and Pleasants of the Upper Ohio Soil Conservation District are inhabited by small part-time farmers and rural residents of low to moderate income. The area within 5 miles of the Developing Ohio River Valley is experiencing growing pains with a lack of community related services and a degradation of the fragile environmental conditions. Outlining rural communities are depressed; struggling to provide necessary services associated a with healthy stable environment. The topography of the area is hilly with many narrow valleys wherein residents live and where most farming activities are carried out.

One (1) Community Resource Aid will join partners from county commissions, planning and development councils and community governments and organizations to:

- Maintain liaison between communities, other sponsors, and District Conservationist.
- Identify leaders to assist with motivation.
- Serve as Facilitator as needed on behalf of the District Conservationist and local sponsoring organization.
- Assist communities with identifying sources of needed technical and financial assistance.
- Assist communities with project applications for grants, etc.
- Provide technical assistance as needed for implementing measures.
- Prepare and maintain data base for projects.

- Integrated Crop Management
  The Eastern Panhandle Soil Conservation District is intensively farmed with cash grain, dairy and swine production being the major farm products. Most are full-time farmers that are knowledgeable, progressive and environmentally aware. The Karst geology and rapidly expanding population have increased the farmers commitment to improve on pesticide and nutrient management. Furthermore, the increased contact of new residents with farm activities has resulted in their concerns to protect their groundwater sources. Relative to the general Appalachian region, this area is economically healthy. However, the average annual value of farm products sold is $41,000 and the average annual value of farm products expense is almost $33,000.

One resource conservationist will integrate crop management with producers by providing in-field technical assistance. Activities will include insect and weed scouting,; soil testing; manure sampling; determining crop yields; making pesticide and nutrient recommendations; pesticide education; record keeping; and economic evaluation. This position is focused on providing a service that is presently unavailable.

- Archeological site exploration -
  Low income residents in areas such as those in the Morgantown, West Virginia seldom have the additional to fully take advantage of the cultural and environmental benefits that archeological data can provide in improving land use planning. One (1) Cultural Resource Specialist, trained in archeology, will work under the supervision of an Environmental Specialist to:

- Inventory and investigate archaeological and historical sites located on areas planned for construction of flood prevention or other structural measures.

- Prepare archaeological and historical reports to document and record findings.

- Provide training to field office staffs and others in the identification of important and significant sites.

- Coordinate work with National Technical Center Cultural Resource Specialist so findings and reports will be technically acceptable.

- Develop a positive working relationship with State Historical Preservation Officer and his staff in order to gain state approval of archaeological and historical findings.

- Provide assistance and training to SCS field office personnel on the importance and procedure for integrating cultural resources, considerations, assessments, an documentation into the basic field office conservation technical assistance programs in West Virginia.

Virginia (6)

- Southern Virginia Rural Recreation Development
  The communities of Clover and Randolph in Halifax and Charlotte counties are low income by state standards. Local residents are hampered by few job opportunities and dependent on a declining tobacco farming enterprise. Alternative business opportunities need to be explored, especially for those in the tobacco industry.

Two (2) AmeriCorps participants will work with the local partners from grassroots citizens groups, the Old Dominion RC&D, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of State Parks and the Norfolk Southern Railroad which in interested in donating an abandoned railroad line for use as a recreational trail. In addition two utility companies are interested in donating adjoining property that will become converted to park land. Some local funding has been obtained and additional assistance is expected.

Through the project local citizens will make improvements in developing recreational opportunities, collecting, documenting and exhibiting historic data and promoting economic development activities for small businesses associated with tourist trade and visiting outdoor recreationists. Opportunities also abound for implementation of environmental education programs concerning the surrounding natural resources as well as environmental protection activities implemented by the adjoining electric generation plant in their generation of electricity.

The Participants would work full time with this project. Currently there is no one conducting the needed services of this project such as to collect and record historic information, serve as technical advisor to planning committees, develop educational programs, coordinate and plan future outdoor recreational activities and programs, assist with exploring small business opportunities, or implementing informational activities.

New River-Highlands Outreach Coordination - the New River Highlands RC&D Area includes 11 counties in southwest Virginia starting with Montgomery County on the east side and ending with Washington County on the west side. The project office would be located in Wytheville, VA in the New River-highlands RC&D Council office at 110 West Spiller St. Suite C, Wytheville, VA.

Population within the area has decreased by 1.65 during the last decade. Survey information reveals that officials believe the loss of young people from the area is a very significant problem for the future of the region. This feature of the area ties together the rising median age and the loss of population in the region. Young people apparently feel that they cannot live and work productively here and are moving away to leave the older, more established citizens behind.

The region's unemployment rates are consistently in excess of the state and national averages. In 1992, the state average was 6.0, while the region showed an average of 7.5 percent. Manufacturing jobs as a percentage of total non agricultural employment has declined. The large proportion of the unemployed which come from the manufacturing sector

(4)	In-Kind Contribution	GM-13 Planner:	
		30 days at $ 232.00/day	$ 6,960
		Travel	1,500
		Other	1,392
		GM-13 RCD Coordinator	
		30 days at $ 232.00/day	6,960
		Travel	1,500
		Other	1,542
		GM-11 Planner/Community Develop Spec	
		90 days at $ 176.00/day	15,840
		Travel	2,000
		Other	1,784
	Estimated Total:		$ 39,478

For more information: Contact Parks Hilliard, Coconino National Forest
602-527-3506 v/tty

95RDF083

April 7,1994

4-Corners Regional Agency/Community Collaboration Project

SPARCS

"Strengthening Partnerships for Active Rural CommunitieS"

Prior to the initiation of the SPARCS collaboration, Regions 2,3, and 4 were actively working with many partners in the 4 Corners area, including a dozen Community Action Teams, and projects with the Navajo, Zuni and Jicarilla Apache tribes. The intent of SPARCS was to build on the existing partnerships, as well as initiate actions that are of regional scope for the entire 4-Corners area that have broad-based community support. Our desire under the Americorps program, is to strongly support both our longer term partnerships at the individual community level, as well as to accelerate the projects identified in the last six months within the SPARCS process.

The 4 Corners Site is defined for the Americorps proposal as the lands contained within the boundaries of the 4 RC&D areas that touch at the 4 Corners Monument. Included within the area are the lands or influence zones of the San Juan, Rio Grande, Manti-La Sal, Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

SPARCS projects are exploring past, present and future directions and methods of organizational collaboration among federal and state agencies and local communities. The 4-Corners area was chosen for several reasons: the area has common rural economic and social challenges based on common culture, history and geography; there are numerous federal, state, tribal and local entities with overlapping jurisdictions sharing a common desire for the economic diversification and sustainability of the region; there exists a critical mass of tribal and community support and commitment from four USDA agencies to help make something happen. Now!

The SPARCS team came together June 28-July 1, 1993 in Durango, and again in December, 1993. The team is comprised of representatives of the FS (Regions 2,3,4), SCS (4 RC&Ds), CES (4 states), the FmHA/RDA, WO reps for each agency; plus the States of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado; the Navajo Nation and Ute, Hopi and Jicarilla Apache Tribes; Colorado and New Mexico Rural Development Councils; and Councils of Government, County Commissioners, State Government and several local environmental, economic development and community groups from each of the 4 states.

SPARCS PROJECTS

Four principal SPARCS project areas emerged, with broad-based, multi-jurisdictional working groups assigned to each area:

1. Development of social, economic and demographic shared data bases to support sustainable economic development. Specifically these data bases are needed to establish baseline information regarding current local conditions and trends. They will be used to suggest and validate strategies for diversifying or strengthening local economies. Estimated project cost is $35,000.

Site: Four Corners SPARCs Area of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico

Americorps People: This task will be accomplished by Americorps members staffed at the locations in Region 2 and 3 as a part of overall strategy development and project implementation. Skills needed include socio - economics, data base management, electronic mail services or bulletin boards, telecommunications, facilitation and familiarity with existing state or Cooperative Extension Service data bases.

Objective:

1. Identify, locate and make available to rural communities via PC or some other electronic format, socio-demographic and economic data bases for each of the four states, which can be merged as a distinct economic region. These data bases should be able to be merged to reflect the four corner area as a distinct regional economy or disaggregated into discrete county or groups of counties. No such shared data base exists today.

2. Verify data and identify and fill in gaps at the local level.

3. Be flexible enough to serve all the inventory and analysis needs of the Four Corners Area for various studies, resource planning, grant proposal writing etc.

In-Kind Contribution:

This project would be funded thru the SPARCs initiative ($10,000-USFS funds already on deposit with Utah State University for SPARCs projects). Technical Assistance is and would continue to be provided by USFS Regional Economists for IMPLAN I/O economic modelling (in kind value of 2 GS-13 economists estimated at $8,000) and state demographers and State Universities already involved in the SPARCs initiative.

FS in-kind contribution	$8,000
FS direct financial asst.	$10,000
Total	$18,000

2. Training for community capacity building and leadership development

Site: Throughout 4-Corners region

Americorps people: One person with strong community/regional planning background, to be assigned to work with Sheila Knop, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.

Project description and objectives:

Through regional workshops and local seminars, increase preparedness and skill to support sustainable rural economic development, by promoting dialogue and collaborative learning activities organized around regional development concerns, such as value-added forestry, agriculture and tourism. Estimated project cost is $25,000.

In-kind contribution: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension will provide supervision and office space/support, valued at $6,000.

3. Tribal Tourism Development/4 Corners Heritage Council

Site: 4-Corners area, with emphasis on tribal lands.

Americorps people: 6 personnel to be shared between the affected tribes and the 4-Corners Heritage Council. Skills needed include regional planning, community development, public or business administration, landscape archecture, engineering, recreation planning, interpretation and environmental education.

Objectives:

All of the Tribes within the 4-Corners are pursuing tourism development as an economic development strategy. The Heritage Council was commissioned by the Governors of the four affected states with a charter to develop locally-based heritage tourism opportunities, with an emphasis on providing an economic boost to the tribes and rural communities. They have 4 mutual objectives (projects) for 1994-97:

1. Community Tourism Development Plans on the Navajo Reservation

2. Tourism / Recreation Facilities Site Plans on the Navajo Reservation.

3. Train Native American Resource Interpreters

4. Archeaeological Research, Guided Tours, and Ruin Stabilization on the Ute Mtn Ute Tribal Park.

In-kind contributions: Unestimated contibutions at this time.

4. FOUR CORNERS BUSINESS AND EXPANSION PROGRAM

AREA DESCRIPTION: Interested communities, counties, and Indian Tribes within the the following counties: NM- San Juan, Rio Arriba, McKinnely, Sandoval, Taos Cibola, Mora. AZ- Apache, Navajo, Coconino, CO- La Plata, Archuleta, Montrose, Ouray. UT- San Juan, Garfield, Kane.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Develop a business retention and expansion (R&E) program for the Four Corners region. This program is a part of the overall SPARCS effort: a Team USDA, multi-agency, multi-state effort.
The purpose of this program is to identify and solve business problems related to survival, expansion and start-up and thereby to strengthen and/or increase economic activity. The program would require a full-time coordinator familier with the area who would serve all the program participants. The coordinator would work with a regional resource team comprised of representatives from the USFS, FmHA, RDA, CE, SBDC, COG's and state economic development departments and local citizens.

AMERICORPS NEEDS: One full-time coordinator and a minimum of 2 support staff. Skills in business, economic development and community planning would be required. A masters degree would be preferred. Cost of the program for the first year would be $200,000.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: One GS-11 or 12 to serve on the regional resource team. Approximate time involved is 15-25 days. Cost: Salary- $3200, Travel- $1500.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS WITHIN THE 4-CORNERS SITE

The following summaries from each Region describe the ongoing partnerships and projects under the RCA program, already occurring within the 4-Corners Site, that will be carried over into 1995, that would be supported by the placement of Americorps teams in each of the 4 states.

This proposal is jointly prepared and submitted under a multi-agency / multi jurisdictional approach to enhancing the viabilty of rural communities and Tribes in the Four Corners Area (Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico) through existing strategic partnerships. The Americorps program will provide an infusion of assistance into new alliances, shared visions and collaborative approaches addressing community problems and change identified by communities and Tribes in the Four Corners Area.

APPROACH:

This proposal takes advantage of existing community based planning, partnerships and networks established in the last 2 years to work with rural people, communities and Tribes to **create jobs, increase family income, generate community revenue, and enhance the quality of life in the Four Corners area.**

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS: Region 2

(1) Site: Colorado portion of 4-Corners area

Community - Public Lands Partnership (CPLP)

This partnership includes the municipalites and counties of Southwestern Colorado, the U.S.Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Fort Lewis College, the Colorado Dept. of Transportation, the Southwestern Colorado Travel Region, and the Four Corners Heritage Council. This partnership focuses on joint efforts between local communities, and public land agencies in areas of resource management, collaborative planning, research, economic diversification and publis policy. On going projects include:

-Second Growth Pine Zone Ecosystem Mgt. Planning
-R-9 (5 county) Economic Development Plan
-Regional Intermodal Transportation planning GIS inventory including San Juan Skyway.
-San Juan National Forest forest plan revision process - collaborative planning. Linking National Forest planning and community strategic planning

The CPLP is being funded by grants from the Forest Service and Fort Lewis College Office of Community Services. technical assistance is being provided by a variety of partners and the FS.

(2) Americorps People — Three corp members will be assigned to the Community-Public Lands Partnership. Skills needed will include Community/Land Use planners, economists, GIS, facilitation of processes, Tourism-Recreation planners, value added forest products and Agriculture.

(3) Objectives — See attached Region 9 Matrix of Economic Development Initiatives matrix, By Sector/by County.

(4) In-Kind Contribution — San Juan National Forest will contribute 1-GS-12 FTE, travel and training to facilitate partnerships, work with the CPLP and Americorps Value of in kind $65,000.

USFS Fin. assist.- $25,000 for CPLP
- $10,000 for Heritage Council
- $30,000 Pine Zone EM project
- $10,000 RCA community support
- $10,000 Four Corners Monu pro
$10,000 SPARCs Initiative
$123,,000

TOTAL IN KIND $ 65,000
TOTAL DIRECT $ 123,000

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS: Region 3

(1) Site: ARIZONA and NEW MEXICO portions of 4-Corners area

Local Community Partnerships

These partnership includes the municipalities and counties of Northeastern Arizona, Northwestern New Mexico, the U.S.Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the New Mexico and Arizona Departments of Commerce, Tourism and Transportation, the New Mexico Rural Development Council and the Four Corners Heritage Council. The partnerships focus on joint efforts between local communities, Action Teams, Tribes and public agencies in areas of resource management, recycling, collaborative planning, research, and economic diversification. On-going efforts in 1994-95 include $408,000 in grant funds for a variety of projects throughout the New Mexico and Arizona portions of the 4-Corners:

New Mexico

Torrence County - Action Team Training	$ 2,000
Pueblo of Zuni - Sawmill	18,000
Sandoval County - Tourism Plan	5,000
Navajo Nation, Ramah Pueblo- Saddle Manufacturing Study/Plan	18,000
Grants/Milan - Pellet Study	18,000
Navajo Nation, Window Rock - Value Added Wood Products	18,000
Cuba - Rio Puerco Watershed Planning and Rehab	18,000
Cochiti Pueblo - Aquaculture Study	18,000
Nambe Pueblo - Recreation Plan	17,000
Pojoaque Pueblo - Herb Garden	18,000
Mora County - Action Plan development	3,000
El Rito Area - Workshops, Water Plan, Workcenter	51,000
Costilla/Amalia - Woodworkers Cooperative	18,000
Questa - Livestock Arena	18,000
Ganados Del Valle - Wool Products Study	18,000

New Mexico subtotal $259,000

Arizona

1.	Community Park--Tuba City (Navajo Nation)	$18,000
2.	Cameron Tourism Plan/Projects (Navajo Nation)	18,000
3.	Arizona American Indian Tourism Conference	7,000
4.	Heber Action Team start-up	5,000
5.	Pinyon-Juniper Study--White Mountain AT	18,000
6.	Laminated Beam Study--Springerville AT	9,000
7.	Sandstone Marketing--Little Colorado RC&D	8,000
		10,000
8.	Tourism Plan--White Mountain Apache Tribe	18,000
9.	Wool/Mohair Study--Shiprock SC&D	18,000
10.	SPARCS project	10,000
11.	4-Corners Heritage Council	10,000

Arizona Subtotal $149,000

Grand Total $ 488,000

(2) Americorps People — Two teams of three members each will be assigned to support the above listed projects and partnerships. One team will be assigned to northern Arizona to work through the Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests; the other team will be assigned to the Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe NF's of northwestern New Mexico. Skills needed will include community/regional planners, economists, GIS, facilitation/mediation, tourism/recreation planners, and business/cooperative development, with emphasis in value added forest products and agriculture.

(3) Objectives — See above-listed description of partnerships and roster of on-going projects.

(4) In-Kind Contribution — The Cibola, Santa Fe, Carson, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests will supply supervision, office space/support and transportation. GS grade of RCA coordinators ranges from GS11-13.
Value of in kind-- $105,000.

Direct financial assistance: $408,000

TOTAL IN KIND $ 70,000
TOTAL DIRECT $ 408,000

TIMBER BRIDGE/WOOD IN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

AREA DESCRIPTION: Communties, counties, and Indian Tribes within the following counties: NM- San Juan, Rio Arriba, McKinnely, Sandoval, Cibola, Mora, Taos. AZ- Apache, Navajo, Coconino.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Most counties in the region have been reluctant to pursue projects under the FS TBI because of limited funding and staff support. Most counties have limited access to people with engineering skills to assist them in the development of timber bridge proposals and in the construction of the bridges. This project would involve recruitment of an engineering graduate student to assist interested counties, communities, and Indian Tribes in identifying there bridge needs, help in the development of proposals and oversee construction.
The wood utilization conference scheduled to be held in Farmington, NM in the fall of 1994 will include timber bridge technology and construction as well as demonstration of the SLAM timber bridge design program. It is expected that this conference will increase interest in timber bridges. Local RC&D's in cooperation with the Forest Service will sponsor this conference.

AMERICORPS NEEDS: One full-time engineering graduate student. Skills in planning and marketing would be desirable. Cost- $50,000.

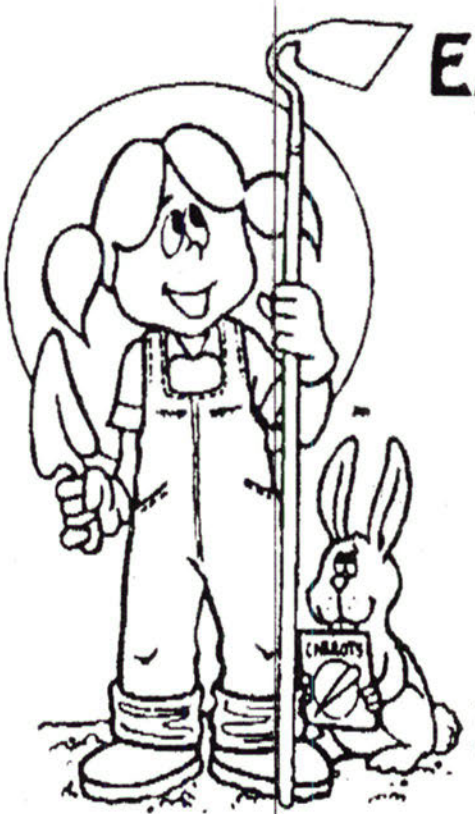
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: Regional and Forest RCA and Engineering personnel: $4,000

HOPI NAVAJO COMMUNITY PLANNING

(1) Sites — State of Arizona, Northeast Corner (Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservation).

(2) Americorps People — One Strategic Planner (preferred) or Small Business Developer. Prefer Graduate School Level.

(3) Objectives — Community based economic planning on the Hopi and Navajo Indian Reservations, working primarily with Chapters Houses and local communities. Planning will be for tourism, small business development, and infrastructure requirements. Estimate 3 to 4 plans in progress each year for two to three years. Unemployment is currently 50 to 80% (depending on chapter or community).



EXTENSION SOIL & WATER

Fax Cover Sheet

Date: ~~4/27/94~~ 4/28

Fax To: ~~DEL BERG~~ ~~Bonnie McGee~~

FAX #: ~~202 720 4444~~ ~~8-7542~~

From: B L Harris For Rick

Number of Pages: (including cover) 8

MESSAGE: As per your discussions with Bonnie McGee.

348 Soil & Crop Sciences
College Station, TX 77836
Phone # (409) 845-2425
Fax # (409) 847-8548

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DRAFT

b. Program Design

- **Program Concept:**

This project will address environmental quality problems and needs of the people in the Lower Rio Grande River Valley portion of the Texas-Mexico border area. The general focus of the project will be on participants hired from the local area to receive adequate training to be able to assist in environmental improvement activities that lead to attaining the following objectives: 1.) improve the quality of life for residents, 2.) facilitate safer drinking water supplies and improvements in natural environment, 3.) foster better understanding by residents of pollution causes and cures, 4.) expand potentials for participants to attend college, 5.) provide employment opportunities in an area with exceptionally high unemployment, 6.) provide participants with and exposure to training in environmentally-related jobs that will provide future opportunities for employment, whether or not they choose to live in the Lower Valley, 7.) and provide Extension personnel with assistance in conducting quality environmental programs for the long term benefit of clientele in the Lower Valley.

The initial portion of the program will focus on training the participants on environmentally related fields. The participants will be trained to perform environmental assessments using the Tex*A*Syst (Farm*A*Syst) program and provided training on water and air quality, water management, and environmental safety. Participants also will receive training and assist with integrated pest management (IPM) including general concepts and

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field scouting, identification of insect, weed and plant diseases and other IPM management practices; soil sampling for fertilizer management purposes; demonstrations of field crop management and irrigation practices and irrigation water management and related educational activities; on-site wastewater disposal activities; urban yard waste composting; pesticide container disposal; and other rural and urban environmental educational activities.

Significant activities of the program participants will deal with "colonias" environmental issues. For a portion of their work time, participants will be grouped together as 5 to 10 member teams to conduct project activities, particularly those dealing with wellhead protection and clean water supplies directly associated with colonias and nearby areas. In those efforts, participants will work in pairs to meet with individual family units to assist them in determining proper safety precautions pertaining to their water well or other water supplies. Participants, using already available wellhead protection guides, will acquaint members of family units with safe storage and handling of pesticides, fertilizers, household hazardous wastes and petroleum products, management of human and animal wastes, composting of lawn and landscape wastes and other related issues.

Training will be provided to participants by Extension personnel, team leaders, and a project manager. Cooperative and collaborative arrangements also will be made with Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission personnel, local city and county health and sanitation officials, and others as appropriate to facilitate efficient and effective project efforts.

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Participant activities will be those prioritized by the local County Extension Program Councils. These are program advisory committees for determining educational outreach needs and are made up of representatives of all facets of community life. For work with colonias, a regional multi-county advisory committee will be established to help focus participant activities. Records of accomplishments and activity involvement by participants will be maintained and aggregated for project evaluation purposes.

A general conceptualized description of anticipated participant work situations and services follows. When working on colonias' needs, participants will be grouped together strategically, and broken down into teams of 2 or 3 persons assuring that all non-Spanish speaking participants are paired with those that are fluent in Spanish. When possible, groups of colonias residents will be gathered together at a central location and teams assigned to work with individual families. This group technique will facilitate better access to associated

Training will be an important component of participant activities. The Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the TAMUS system have a large reservoir of technically

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Spanish speaking only.) However, provisions will be made for those participants from the area that speak only English.

- **Participant recruitment:**

County Extension agents and specialists working in the project area will identify potential participants from their individual counties. To the extent possible participants will work in their own community in order to demonstrate leadership and serve as role models for their peers. Present community leaders also will be invited to help facilitate of project activities, sanction participant efforts, and assist with participant recruitment. Standard position announcements also will be made in the project area.

- **Participant Selection:**

All interested applicants will complete an application form listing qualifications,

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Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Joel Berg
Company: USDA Office of Public Affairs
Phone: 202-720-[redacted]6350
Fax: 202-690-1131

From: Marvin Schwartz
Company: Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corp.
Phone: 1-800-264-1141
Fax: 501-734-3570

Date: 04/08/94
Pages including this cover page: 2

BEST COPY
PE[illegible]VATION

Comments:

Dear Joel,

I greatly appreciate the information sent by Ellen McCloskey on the Americorps rural development team being planned for the Mississippi Delta. As I mentioned on the phone yesterday, ALFDC has been developing and delivering services that have impacted many areas in the Delta. The five Arkansas counties identified in the USDA plan are directly in our service area and the target area of a collaborative partnership, the Arkansas Delta Consortium, in which ALFDC has a lead role.

Without going into great detail at this time, I want to offer an Arkansas response to the USDA plan and indicate where the partnership with community based organizations can help the USDA plan achieve its full desired results. I've selected six general work areas from the Rural Development Strategic Plan. For each one, I have offered a series of grass-roots activities that the Americorps member could implement, coordinate, and teach to others.

Agriculture

- Training and technical assistance provided to limited resource and small family farmers to implement sustainable agriculture systems
- Outreach services to farmers for the development of alternate crops and linkage to or development of appropriate markets
- Outreach services to create and support new entry farmers, particularly nontraditional persons such as women, welfare recipients, and youth

- Natural resources protection through environmentally sound and sustainable soil and water systems, woodland management, and reduced chemical inputs
- Demonstration of applied production of alternate crops and woodland management

Rural Business & Micro Enterprises
- Development of value added processing systems for locally grown produce
- Business planning and marketing assistance to alternate crop/limited resource farmers
- Home based industry development and entrepreneurship

Housing
- Rural housing rehabilitation and new construction
- Coordination with community action USDA agencies
- Housing rehabilitation using state and federal resources
- Self help housing

Youth
- Youth Enterprise in Agriculture: on-going program to encourage minority and at-risk youth to pursue careers in agriculture and related areas
- School outreach for nontraditional programs: apprenticeships, internships, farmers markets and production agriculture
- Vocational education linked to housing rehabilitation
- Exposure to work ethic, volunteerism, and community service

Tourism/Culture
- Development of local history programs: audio and video interviews
- Historical archeology: reclamation of structures with significant community history
- Linkage of local heritage programs with regional cultural agencies and calendar of events
- Museum development
- Archive preservation and collections management
- Linkage of culture/heritage with community economic development: using local culture and history as a technique for motivating youth and adults in public service programs

Empowerment
- Work with small towns on comprehensive initiatives
- Assist with linkages and networking
- Training in strategic plan development, resource identification and access
- Facilitate local meetings and planning process

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Each of the above topics and activities are currently being performed by ALFDC and the members of the Delta Consortium. Virtually all of them are being supported through public-private investments that have achieved impressive partnership relations between local, state, and federal agencies and private foundations. Existing volunteer programs, VISTA and Delta Service Corps, have also played an important role in these efforts.

The real strength of these Arkansas programs, and their ultimate benefit to the USDA plan, is their ability to include many people in planning and implementation. Maybe it's because we're a small state. I think it's because many of us have learned how to work together. This cooperative process is being carried even further through our current efforts in response to the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Program.

I hope this brief outline gives you some idea of the extent and depth of the community based effort in Arkansas. ALFDC is interested in serving as a base site for Americorps rural development personnel. We can provide them office space and equipment. We can also offer our site for conferences, workshops, field demonstrations, and other logistic support.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit these ideas. Let me know how you would like to proceed.

Project Proposal
to
AmeriCorps/USDA
from
Center for Rural Affairs

PROPOSAL:
Use volunteers to expand the activities of two existing programs that facilitate people banding together to help themselves and each other.

1) Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP): REAP helps form and advise local "associations" of small and aspiring businesses in small towns. These associations raise much of their own revolving loan funds, manage the loans, and set their own business education agenda.

2) Beginning Farmer Sustainable Agriculture Project (BFSAP): BFSAP helps form local mutual-help groups of beginning and established farmers for education in sustainable agriculture practices.

ACTIVITIES:
REAP: A volunteer under CRA supervision would develop, collect, and analyze the program effectiveness for both program and local association use. The second year the volunteer would help implement the results of the evaluation with mini-training sessions for the associations.

BFSAP: A volunteer under CRA supervision would help organize, evaluate, and report on sustainable agriculture education activities (workshops, tours, etc.) for groups of beginning and established farmers in mutual-help groups across Nebraska.

VOLUNTEERS:
REAP: One senior or graduate-level business student with communications experience for two summer periods.
BFSAP: One senior or graduate-level student with an agriculture background (education or experience) and communications experience for 1 year.

BENEFITS:
Direct work in USDA priority areas of rural economic development, sustainable agriculture, and rural leadership development.
Coordination and networking with many rural service and advisory agencies.
Volunteer skill development in communications, leadership, group facilitation, and networking.
Volunteer exposure to pioneering work in other CRA projects in agriculture, the environment, and social justice.

Attn: Katherine Gibney
AmeriCorps/USDA

from Wyatt Fraas
Center for Rural Affairs
402 254-6893

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Project Proposal
to
AmeriCorps/USDA
from
Center for Rural Affairs

The Center for Rural Affairs is proposing to sponsor a project within the AmeriCorps/USDA pilot project umbrella. The Center for Rural Affairs (CRA) is a private, nonprofit organization that works to support sustainable agriculture, family farming and healthy rural communities. Many of CRA's projects have hosted interns over the past twenty years and two of CRA's service-oriented projects, the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project and the Beginning Farmer Sustainable Agriculture Project, now can provide working/learning experiences for volunteers under the AmeriCorps program. Both of these projects emphasize people helping each other through growth of knowledge, skills, and local economies.

Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP)
The Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) is based at the CRA main office in Walthill, NE. REAP began as a demonstration and pilot project in 1990 for supporting microenterprise development in small agricultural communities through revolving loan funds and education. At that time, the primary economic development strategy used by small rural towns in the midwest was to try to attract a factory to town. For a majority of these communities, that would never happen. In the 1980's, these agricultural communities experienced loss of farms, businesses, employment and population, and many are still fighting to maintain population. CRA studies showed that an exceptionally high percentage of the population in these communities was self-employed. So a program was launched to assist the establishment of "microenterprises" by filling three gaps: 1) training, 2) networking, and 3) lending opportunities, primarily in communities of 2,000 or less population.

REAP assists small and aspiring business people to start local "associations" to raise money for a revolving loan fund and loan loss reserve, to manage the loans, and to set up a business education program. Fifteen associations of microenterprises have formed in Nebraska and one in Kansas, serving 200 members and representing 57 communities. Of the businesses served by REAP, 56% are home-based. REAP is also an intermediary in the Small Business Administration (SBA) microloan program, using SBA capital for making loans to these associations. REAP is currently exploring the possibility of a youth component to an adult association that would extend business training and microbusiness loans to high school students.

REAP now needs to review and enhance its processes for evaluating its own effectiveness in serving microenterprises. Loan numbers, loan amounts, etc. are being tracked, but the professional competence and personal growth in the businesses being served is unknown. Improved evaluations would assist in determining the

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future direction of the project and in improving service to the associations in education, lending and networking.

An AmeriCorps worker would be hired part-time for two summers to review REAP's existing evaluation tools, help develop future evaluation tools for the project, collect and tally data from current members, locate and arrange speakers, and assist with association meetings. The first summer would concentrate on developing the evaluation protocol and data collection. During the second summer the worker would develop mini-training sessions for association members and assist them with questions they may have regarding the operation of their association and their businesses.

Approximately 200 microenterprise programs are currently operating in the US. Although REAP's customer base and service mix are unique among these, an evaluation tool or process designed for REAP could be shared with other programs. This could be easily achieved through presentations to the national Association for Enterprise Opportunity and the International Community Development Society, and by expanding use of AmeriCorps volunteers to these other programs.

Beginning Farmer Sustainable Agriculture Project (BFSAP)
The Beginning Farmer Sustainable Agriculture Project (BFSAP) is based in the CRA's Hartington, NE office. The BFSAP was begun in 1991 in response to decreasing numbers of beginning farmers in Nebraska and across the country and the need for more sustainable agricultural practices. In Nebraska, the number of farmers under age 25 fell by 43% between 1978 and 1987, while the number over age 65 increased by 15%. Nearly half of U.S. farmland is operated by farmers likely to retire in the next ten years. Beginning farmers are more open to sustainable farming practices that protect soil, water and biological resources than are farmers who have already made financial and emotional commitments to conventional farming systems. Recent studies have shown that about 80% of the farmers who practice sustainable agriculture made the decision to do so before reaching age 40. Without a new generation of farmers, a large share of the nations's farm opportunities will be lost, and both rural communities and the environment will suffer.

The BFSAP works to increase opportunities for beginning farmers to learn about and implement sustainable farming methods through mutual-help discussion groups and continuing education opportunities. The project also collects and analyzes data to evaluate the economic and environmental performance of participating beginning farm families. A pilot project in northeast Nebraska is scheduled to go state-wide in mid-1994.

The project has found that young farmers have unique information, financial, and social needs that are not met by conventional services. They have limited capital. They often work off-farm while starting the farm business and have little free time for education or social activities. They often feel isolated from their neighbors by time and financial limitations. They need

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information for lowest-cost and least input farming methods as well as information for farmers with limited practical experience. Yet they want to use environmentally sound farming practices to allow them to stay in their home communities and bring their children up to enjoy farming. BFSAP work with farmers in northeast Nebraska has shown that local support groups can overcome these obstacles and meet these needs.

The BFSAP has initiated five local mutual-help groups in northeast Nebraska and plans to support five more across the state in 1994 and at least 15 by 1996, in conjunction with the University of Nebraska Extension Service and the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society. Staff of the three organizations will share an office and a pool of cost-share funds for on-farm projects, in taking this effort state-wide. Staff support of these groups includes group meeting facilitation, organizing and conducting educational activities, on-farm consultation, cost-share for on-farm research and education, and group communications. Though we will make a special effort to recruit beginning farmers, we will also recruit established farmers interested in sustainable agriculture.

A full-time AmeriCorps volunteer in this project would coordinate the continuing sustainable agriculture education activities of these groups. This work would include scheduling speakers and facilities, arranging farm tours and demonstrations, discussing education topics and activity evaluations with farmers, and writing press releases and news stories about the activities.

Project Administration

Day-to-day supervision, administration, and training for this proposed project would be carried out under existing CRA administrative structure. CRA is a public charity under Internal Revenue code sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) with a budget of over $1 million, an annual audit and an excellent record of fiscal responsibility. REAP and BFSAP project leaders who would supervise the AmeriCorps volunteers have several years of experience training and supervising other staff. No additional supervisory training would be necessary.

Project volunteers would probably be recruited locally, although the opportunity to peruse a national pool compiled by AmeriCorps would be helpful. CRA follows a nondiscrimination policy in hiring.

Each of the two proposed positions would require senior-level or graduate-level college students with communications experience. The REAP position would require at least a senior-level business student for each of two summers. The BFSAP position would require at least a senior-level college student with an agriculture background, full time for a year.

AmeriCorps project volunteers would be trained initially in REAP and BFSAP goals, objectives, and methods. Additional on-the-job training would occur alongside existing staff at REAP association

establish their farms, support local economies and practice environmental stewardship.

Participants in both REAP and BFSAP coordinate with other federal and state agencies and some existing volunteer efforts. REAP works very closely with volunteers in rural communities to raise loan loss reserve funds and to recruit membership for the associations. Other linkages are made with service providers near each association, such as community colleges, development districts, small business centers, the Nebraska Home-Based Business Association, the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), and USDA Resource Conservation and Development districts, to expand the expertise of the REAP staff and each association. BFSAP works closely with the University of Nebraska, local and regional Cooperative Extension educators, the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society, and the USDA SARE program. We tie local groups to existing organizations such as FFA Alumni clubs, church groups, and rural school districts, and will involve local extension staff in establishing and coordinating mutual help groups. Although extension staff currently express interest in sustainable agriculture, they often lack the time, expertise, and money to lead the programs supported by the BFSAP.

AmeriCorps volunteers would benefit from participation in these projects as well. Volunteers would improve their communication skills, especially in public presentations, small group facilitation, and publicity writing. They would gain experience in using modern communication techniques, including small group process and technologies such as computer training, fax and modem communications, interactive video teleconferencing, and telephone conferences. They would also gain knowledge of service and support organizations across rural Nebraska. They would learn about sustainable agriculture practices, microenterprise development, and lending programs. Volunteers would gain the satisfaction of helping people to help themselves and of helping communities to build themselves up from their members' skills and abilities. Both projects expect to foster the volunteers' development in individual consultation skills and would expose them to the other pioneering work at CRA in global climate change, agricultural research policy, federal farm policy, agriculture and environmental policy, rural schools and communities, and other rural and social justice issues.

meetings and local farmer group meetings.

Costs for these positions would include direct costs of salary, health and possible child care, travel and per diem expenses, and phone and printing costs. Indirect costs include administration, support, and governance associated with each employee of CRA. Supplies and equipment would include office supplies and presentation equipment for the REAP position (such as a flipchart stand). A breakdown of costs follows:

	REAP*	BFSAP**
Salary***	$ 7500	$15000
Fringe benefits***	2303	6648
travel	1420	2859
telephone	800	1089
postage	837	2400
training	105	310
supplies	369	1027
special rent	30	90
printing	489	1385
indirect	4598	12588
total	$18443	$43394

*REAP expenses cover two summers @ 480 hours each.
**BFSAP expenses cover one year.
***contributed by AmeriCorps/USDA

Program Benefits

This proposed project would address several USDA priority areas, including rural economic development, sustainable agriculture, and rural leadership development. REAP works directly with rural communities to help them develop their economic resources from within. Associations raise their own loan loss reserve funds and administer their own loan funds. They set their own business education agendas and solicit new association members.

BFSAP helps beginning and established farmers in sustainable agriculture come together to share information and discuss each other's problems. They learn and observe resource-conserving farming practices from each other and from experts whom they invite to speak. These farmers learn leadership, communication, and civic skills as they present information about their farms to their groups, to other farmers, and to policymakers at tours, field days, and public meetings. They minimize their mistakes and increase their management skills through dialogue with other farmers and mentors developed through the group process. These processes all improve the likelihood that these farmers will successfully

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FAX COVER PAGE

Date: Wed Apr 27 16:28:10 GMT 1994

Attention To: Ron_D.

Destination Fax: +1 202 720 4614

From: mhs!fswa/S=J.SEBELIUS/OU1=W01C

Subject: Alaska Forest Service Narrative

Number of pages: 6
(including cover page(s))

UA-Message ID: NT-MORMOQ

Addressed To:

fax!2027204614 (/Ron_D.)

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Call 1-800-MAIL672 in the USA or +1 314 770 1610
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Content-Type: text
Content-Length: 00000000761

Received late last night. Some of the project detail numbers will have to be reduced under the alternative #1 - S1,000 per participant application. I will forward revised narrative detail when we get you the revised application based on fewer participants and lower Corp. funds. Call me at 703-494-2570 today if you need to discuss, or if that is busy (i'm likely to be on that line with this computer) call my dc # 205-1383 and leave message on voice mail. i'll check in periodically on that. If this fax transmission is not high enough quality for your scanner, maybe you can give me an internet address of a computer somewhere in your building to which i can mail it. Otherwise, i can bring it in to you this afternoon -- let me know.
John

Content-Type: text
Content-Length: 00000007498

ALASKA PROJECT

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Program Summary:

AmeriCorps - Rural Development Corps
Developing Sustainable Economies in the ALASKA Communities

Needs to be Met

Environment

Development of native community-based sustainable economic development strategies using renewable natural resources in ways that protect and enhance the environment is the primary need to be met by this program. The program will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives, provide technical assistance in analyzing these alternatives, and work with native community and business leaders to implement essential projects that lead to sustainable economic activity. Participants will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities.

Participants will provide technical support in a wide variety of areas to existing rural businesses and entrepreneurs wishing to start businesses. Activities will focus on enhancing production of value-added products from forest resources, helping rural communities capitalize on travel and tourism opportunities, developing businesses based on recycled products, and supporting development of community-based economic development organizations.

Education

Participants will be working in a mentored environment where professional Forest Service and State Forester's staff provide guidance and direction. Training will focus on developing interpersonal skills, collaborative planning skills, group involvement skills, consensus building skill, and meeting management skills. Participants will be utilizing their technical skills in a real world environment. They will learn much about the decision-making process in rural communities and how to help diverse groups reach consensus on difficult issues.

Human Needs

Participants will become part of a team effort to assist rural communities in making informed decisions as citizens identify, develop and implement sustainable economic development strategies. Participants will be asked to apply their technical skills in real world situations which will affect the future of the communities in which they work. This involvement at the local level will familiarize participants with the resources, needs, and aspirations of rural communities and increase their awareness of rural people. These efforts will improve the decision-making capabilities of the Participants, and provide new experiences to broaden their cultural awareness.

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Participants activities are expected to have a significant positive impact on the economy in rural Alaska. The technical expertise that participants will bring to bear in assisting existing businesses will help them become more competitive in both domestic and international markets. Targeted market research efforts will identify new products, business development efforts will improve the use of technology, updated management systems, improved advertising/sales techniques, and worker training programs implemented on-site will help improve business profitability and competitiveness. Business growth, job creation, and increased opportunities for value-added manufacturing opportunities will result. Participants will also support the development of home-based and micro-businesses. Participants will help prepare business plans, assist in the preparation of financing packages, assist in grant writing, and develop micro-loan programs in rural communities to help generate successful small businesses.

Program Design

Participants will be working thoughout the State. Rental housing assistance is available through local housing placement service. Travel and per diem expenses will be paid when overnight travel is required. When project work requires extended travel periods, arrangements will be made for housing with local families through out the state.

Program Elements

Self-confidence and practical experience in project planning, group process, consensus building, team work, multi-cultural awareness, and in natural resource based sustainable economic development will be gained from this program. Work experience will involve a variety of technical efforts done in conjunction with a variety of partners. This includes designing, producing, mailing and analyzing several broad-based surveys aimed at a determining community needs such as improvement in the local businesses and what these companies are producing and what they are capable of producing, what new sales opportunities may exist or be potentially available. These will lead to the development of about 5 business plans. Five infrastructure improvement projects will be planned, and designed aimed at transportation facilities, industrial and building facilities such as dust control systems, timber bridges and multi-modal transportation facilities. five worker training programs will be designed and implemented. These will address employment and management needs. Approximately 5 financing plans will be developed for small businesses, and 5 revolving loan funds will be established. Several community foundations will be established for the State will be given grant writing assistance. Additional work experience will be gained in group decision-making, consensus building, and grass roots planning processes.

Recruitment Goals

Our primary recruitment goal is to identify college students from rural Alaska that are enrolled as juniors, seniors, or graduate students in Local colleges or universities, or students from Alaska that are attending out-of-state schools, that wish to gain appropriate job experience. Contacts

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have been developed with administrative offices at schools in Alaska and with high school counselors throughout the State to identify likely candidates. We will also contact 1890 and other minority Schools to determine student interest in participating in this program. We hope to create a diverse crew workforce through these strategies.

Administering Organization

The USDA Forest Service's Region 10 will be the administering organization. Currently, we hire many summer interns for a variety of activities. This program will be an extension of that effort. Our emphasis to to provide practical experience within the framework of community-based economic development. Such practical experience should improve the employability of the Participants. This practical experience will be supported by specific training designed to meet the needs of the Participants in working with community-based economic development.

Program Partners

The program will be run in cooperation with a variety of partners. These partners will assist in planning, coordination, training, implementation, and monitoring the program. These program partners are:

The Alaska Rural Develpment Council
The Alaska Division of Forestry
The Alaskian Trible councils
The Private sector
Foundations
Small Business Development Centers
Cooperative Extension Service

Participant Benefits

Each participant will receive:
Stipend
End of program scholarship
Room and meals
Housing subsidy
Critical work expwerience in their major field
Transportation to and from work site

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USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
AmeriCorps Proposal

Proposal Title: Sustainable Economic Development in West Virginia

Mission:

Planning and implementing innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to community-based sustainable economic development.

Project Locations:

In West Virginia, initial program activities are being targeted to those counties being considered for USDA/HUD efforts in the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Programs. This targeting is being done in cooperation with the West Virginia Rural Development Council. Targeted counties in the first year are:

McDowell
Logan
Clay
Braxton
Nicholas
Fayette
Webster
Mingo
Lincoln
Barbour
Wyoming
Monongalia
Pocahontas
Preston
Tucker

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
AmeriCorps Proposal

Proposal Title: Sustainable Economic Development in Minnesota

Mission:

Planning and implementing innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to community-based sustainable economic development.

Project Locations:

In Minnesota, initial program activities are being targeted to those counties that are most dependent on wildland resources. These counties have low income levels and few jobs. These counties also include several Indian Reservations where both unemployment and pverty levels are well above the national average. Counties to be targeted include:

Rouseau
Cook
Itasca
Carlton
Koochiching
Lake
Washington
St. Louis
Morrison
Crow Wing
Lake of the Woods
Pine
Beltrami
Benton
Aitkin
Cass
Red Lake
Mille Lacs

Families ~ AFDC

MISSISSIPPI DELTA PROJECT

Arkansas Counties- Crittenden, Lee, Phillips, Desha, and Chicot

Louisiana Counties: East Carroll, W. Carroll, Madison, Tenas, and Concordia

Mississippi Counties: Desoto, Tunica, Panola, Coahoma, Bolivar, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Washington, Sunflower, Carrol, Sharkey, Holmes, Humphreys, Yazoo, Warren, Issaquena, Claiborne, and Jefferson

FOREST SERVICE Will receive late this pm will send Monday

Tennessee Appalachia: Claiborn, and Campbell counties

Kentucky: Bell, Whitley counties

South Carolina

Minnesota

MISSISSIPPI

Water Use, Northwest Mississippi Resource Conservation & Development, Delta Council, Yazoo Water Management District
Issaquena, Sharkey, Greenwood, Washington, Tunica. Coahoma, Bolivar, Tallahatchie, Quitman, Yalobusha

OREGON

PROJECT PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
Coos, Curry, & Douglas Counties, SW Oregon
SW Oregon Resource Conservation & Development

SOUTH CAROLINA
South Carolina Rural Development Project - Columbia, SC
Abbeville, Aiken, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda Counties

SOUTH DAKOTA

a) FLOOD RECOVERY, b) Soil Surveys, c) Geographical Info. Systems

Huron (Beadle County), Brookings (Kingsbury Co.)

d) East River Riparian Area Inventory
Eastern So. Dakota Counties in James, Vermillion, and Big Sioux River Watersheds.

e) Lake Campbell/Battle Creek Watershed Project
Brookings, Lake, and Moody Counties

f) Moccasin Creek and Elm Lake Watershed
Brown County

WASHINGTON

MID COLUMBIA SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION

Klickitat County, Goldendale, Washington
Benton County

ALABAMA - TENNESSEE VALLEY

RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AGRIBUSINESS, ENVIRONMENT

Appalachian counties of Alabama
Dekalb, Jackson, Marshall, Madison, Limestone, Lawrence, Morgan, and Cullman Counties.

ALASKA

RC & D - YUKON FLATS

Fairbanks County, Ft. Yukon

ARIZONA, COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, UTAH (SCS & FS)

FOUR CORNERS - HUB RC&D, New Mexico - San Juan Co., McKinley Co.
San Juan RC&D, Colorado Montezuma Co., La Plata, Dolores
Castleland RC&D, Utah - San Juan Co., Kane Co., Wayne, Co.
Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D, Arizona - Navajo Co.

ARKANSAS

Resource Conservation and Development Council(s)

Primary location:
Ft. Smith: District Office
Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Pope, Conway, Perry, Yell, Logan, Scott, Sebastian, Polk, Montgomery

Batesville
Jonesboro: District Office
Fulton, Randolph, Clay, Izard, Sharp, Lawrence, Greene. Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett, Jackson, Independence, Cleburne, Stone, Van Buren, White, Cross, St. Francis, Crittenden, Woodruff, Lee, Phillips

CALIFORNIA

Adopt a Watershed
All counties

GEORGIA

ATLANTA

Fulton County - Greater Atlanta

ILLINOIS

RC&D Southwestern - Illinois
St. Clair County
Communities of:
Alorton, Brooklyn, Centerville, **East St. Louis**, Lovejoy, National City, Washington Park

KENTUCKY

PROJECT HEALTH, Preston, KY (2 Vols)

Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, and Pike Counties

MAINE

WATER QUALITY TEAM

Aroostook, Washington, Penobscot, Cumberland, Kennebec, Oxford
16 Soil & Water Conservation Districts

MASSACHUSETTS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT THROUGH LOCAL EMPOWERMENT

City of Boston
Suffolk, Plymouth Counties

MIDWEST FLOOD STATES RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ENSCS/MIDWEST)

Summary

Two-hundred and ninety-seven (NUMBER NOT YET DETERMINED) participants will form Midwest Rural Development and Environmental teams and will perform flood recovery work, and address priority environmental and rural development concerns in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Four states have designated exact service projects they will conduct; the remaining states will base their final project upon spring and summer weather and flooding conditions.

The Soil Conservation Service and the Agriculture Stabilization (ASCS) and Conservation Service (SCS) will administer the program. In Illinois, twenty-three participants will form two environmental teams to supervise the clean-up of debris from the flood in 12 counties. In Iowa, sixty-six participants will form a rural development team to restore and protect resources damaged by the flood. In North Dakota, two participants will work in a seven-county area to assist in the completion of an inventory of rivers and streams; the participants also will supervise debris removal projects. In South Dakota, thirteen participants will form a rural development team in designated flood disaster areas to perform recovery work, as well as emphasize the importance of flood plain management. (IOWA?) The remaining xxx participants will be assigned in the other five states as needs are identified by the SCS, the ASCS, members of the state's emergency management team, and local partners. All teams will be designed according to the rural development model with more skilled participants assigned individually, but some will also form into crews periodically to supervise environmental work such as debris removal.

A socio-economic diverse group of participants will be recruited, with persons displaced or otherwise affected by the flood to be given preference as participants.

Needs To Be Met

The environmental needs to be met will be the restoration and protection of resources damaged by the statewide record floods of 1993 including wetlands restoration, riparian area reestablishment, livestock waste management, trout stream protection, and debris removal. The project will also promote rural development by restoring, improving, and protecting priority resources for farmers and small rural communities. In North Dakota, the two participants will assist in the completion of a inventory of rivers and streams in a seven-county project area. The inventory data will be evaluated to determine eligibility for EWP (explain?) assistance and to prioritize specific sites. The AmeriCorps participants would be involved in the inventory and evaluation phases. Prioritized sites will be planned by SCS personnel for debris removal.

In Iowa, the work of the AmeriCorps participants will enable local water resource districts to alleviate flooding hazards caused by the Midwest flood of 1993. Considerable debris, primarily native woody material needs to be cleared and snagged from the Red River and eight of its major tributaries in order to curtail future flooding. An estimated 500 river miles will require a reconnaissance survey to determine the specific actions that will be necessary to curb flooding problems. The local water resource districts have estimated 190 roads and 250 bridges and culverts would benefit from Emergency Watershed Protection. An estimated 200 farmsteads, with nearly 1,000 buildings, would benefit from reduced out-of-bank flooding. Twenty-one communities would also benefit. Implementation of this project will benefit over 167,000 people in the seven counties. Reduced flooding will protect soil resources from overland shoot flows. Prime farmlands, which entail nearly half of the cropland in the project area, would be better protected from flood events.

The needs in the other flood states are equally enormous.

Program Design

Sites will be identified by the Soil Conservation Service, the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, and personnel from the other agencies that comprise each state's emergency management team. Site design plans could duplicate work activities as outlined in the Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota proposals. The **Iowa** model is a rural development team, consisting of 12 components with 66 participants as follows:

1) three participants will assist the reestablishment of riparian wetland areas in each state; 2) ten participants will serve as community assistance planners in each state; 3) four engineering students and one coordinator will serve as participants in Animal Waste Management System development; 4) four engineers and one coordinator will work in the Emergency Watershed Protection Program; 5) one information specialist in each state will communicate emergency program opportunities to the public; 6) one landscape architect will enhance rural development efforts by incorporating comprehensive landscape planning and using visual tools to involve the public; 7) one coordinator will match beginning limited resource farmers with retirement age farmers under the Rural Population Stabilization Program; 8) two specialists will identify locations of tracts participating in the Wetland Reserve Program, Emergency Wetland Reserve Program, and Conservation Reserve Program and will develop Digital Data Layers; 9) six restoration specialists will target flood damaged riverine areas for wetland restoration; 10) one biologist, one engineer, six implementation crew members for streambank stabilization; 11) one ecosystem manager will perform accelerated ecosystem management planning with private landowners in priority streams; and 12) four water resource assistants and four nutrient management planners will work with rural water management and improvement.

The **North Dakota** plan calls for two rural development participants with forestry, biology, surveying, engineering, or contracting skills to assist SCS personnel in the Emergency Watershed Protection recovery effort. The **South Dakota** proposal will create a rural development team of 11 biological technicians who will perform paraprofessional tasks in various areas of the state related to watershed recovery work. In **Illinois,** an Environment Team of 23 participants with two crew leaders would supervise removal of flood debris in 12 counties of the state.

All participants will receive on-the-job training in technical and programmatic areas to meet the needs of their position. Training, will be provided on location by local and state level specialists from SCS, ASCS, and other resource agencies.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

Participants on the rural development teams will be mostly college or professional school graduates. Socio-economic diversity of participants will be a major component in recruitment. In addition, work/study students in institutions of higher education in the flood states will also be recruited. A goal of 25% e of the participants will be recruited through the Corporation's national recruitment pool.

Participant Benefits

Participants will gain valuable technical expertise, community organizing skills which could be helpful in their future careers. The individuals will have an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in natural resource conservation. This opportunity could result in these individuals pursuing an education and career in conservation or rural development.

Internal Evaluation and Monitoring Activities

Success will be measured based on accomplishments related to an annual plan of operations that will be developed each year for each program.

Initially, the participants on the rural development teams will work with the SCS or ASCS project office or local field office staffs. After minimum skill levels are attained, the participant will work independently with periodic supervision and quality control overview. Participants will have tasks assigned that are matched to their educational and previous work experiences.

Institutional and Personnel Information

(Need specific information on state and county offices and personnel)

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY
LORMAN, MISSISSIPPI 39096

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
AND PLANNING

April 13, 1994

Mr. Joel Berg
USDA Office of Public Affairs
Office of National Service
Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Berg:

Alcorn State University is interested in becoming a partner with the United States Department of Agriculture in submitting the USDA/AmeriCorps grant application.

The university is interested in participating in any aspect of the program for which USDA is submitting an application. The university is committed to principles and goals of AmeriCorps and is willing to collaborate closely with USDA to develop and implement any project with which USDA, AmeriCorps, and Alcorn State University is involved.

Please consider this letter as a formal letter of interest to collaborate with USDA/AmeriCorps. Should there be questions or if additional information is needed, please let me know. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Franklin D. Jackson
Vice President

sc

POST OFFICE BOX 210 • ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY • LORMAN, MISSISSIPPI 39096
TELEPHONE (601) 877-3702 or (601) 877-6118

95 RDF 083

April 7,1994

4-Corners Regional Agency/Community Collaboration Project

SPARCS

"Strengthening Partnerships for Active Rural CommunitieS"

Prior to the initiation of the SPARCS collaboration, Regions 2,3, and 4 were actively working with many partners in the 4 Corners area, including a dozen Community Action Teams, and projects with the Navajo, Zuni and Jicarilla Apache tribes. The intent of SPARCS was to build on the existing partnerships, as well as initiate actions that are of regional scope for the entire 4-Corners area that have broad-based community support. Our desire under the Americorps program, is to strongly support both our longer term partnerships at the individual community level, as well as to accelerate the projects identified in the last six months within the SPARCS process.

The 4 Corners Site is defined for the Americorps proposal as the lands contained within the boundaries of the 4 RC&D areas that touch at the 4 Corners Monument. Included within the area are the lands or influence zones of the San Juan, Rio Grande, Manti-La Sal, Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

SPARCS projects are exploring past, present and future directions and methods of organizational collaboration among federal and state agencies and local communities. The 4-Corners area was chosen for several reasons: the area has common rural economic and social challenges based on common culture, history and geography; there are numerous federal, state, tribal and local entities with overlapping jurisdictions sharing a common desire for the economic diversification and sustainability of the region; there exists a critical mass of tribal and community support and commitment from four USDA agencies to help make something happen. Now!

The SPARCS team came together June 28-July 1, 1993 in Durango, and again in December, 1993. The team is comprised of representatives of the FS (Regions 2,3,4), SCS (4 RC&Ds), CES (4 states), the FmHA/RDA, WO reps for each agency; plus the States of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado; the Navajo Nation and Ute, Hopi and Jicarilla Apache Tribes; Colorado and New Mexico Rural Development Councils; and Councils of Government, County Commissioners, State Government and several local environmental, economic development and community groups from each of the 4 states.

SPARCS PROJECTS

Four principal SPARCS project areas emerged, with broad-based, multi-jurisdictional working groups assigned to each area:

1. Development of social, economic and demographic shared data bases to support sustainable economic development. Specifically these data bases are needed to establish baseline information regarding current local conditions and trends. They will be used to suggest and validate strategies for diversifying or strengthening local economies. Estimated project cost is $35,000.

Site: Four Corners SPARCs Area of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico

Americorps People: This task will be accomplished by Americorps members staffed at the locations in Region 2 and 3 as a part of overall strategy development and project implementation. Skills needed include socio - economics, data base management, electronic mail services or bulletin boards, telecommunications, facilitation and familiarity with existing state or Cooperative Extension Service data bases.

Objective:

1. Identify, locate and make available to rural communities via PC or some other electronic format, socio-demographic and economic data bases for each of the four states, which can be merged as a distinct economic region. These data bases should be able to be merged to reflect the four corner area as a distinct regional economy or disaggregated into discrete county or groups of counties. No such shared data base exists today.

2. Verify data and identify and fill in gaps at the local level.

3. Be flexible enough to serve all the inventory and analysis needs of the Four Corners Area for various studies, resource planning, grant proposal writing etc.

In-Kind Contribution:

This project would be funded thru the SPARCs initiative ($10,000-USFS funds already on deposit with Utah State University for SPARCs projects). Technical Assistance is and would continue to be provided by USFS Regional Economists for IMPLAN I/O economic modelling (in kind value of 2 GS-13 economists estimated at $8,000) and state demographers and State Universities already involved in the SPARCs initiative.

FS in-kind contribution	$8,000
FS direct financial asst.	$10,000
Total	$18,000

2. Training for community capacity building and leadership development

Site: Throughout 4-Corners region

Americorps people: One person with strong community/regional planning background, to be assigned to work with Sheila Knop, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.

Project description and objectives:

Through regional workshops and local seminars, increase preparedness and skill to support sustainable rural economic development, by promoting dialogue and collaborative learning activities organized around regional development concerns, such as value-added forestry, agriculture and tourism. Estimated project cost is $25,000.

In-kind contribution: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension will provide supervision and office space/support, valued at $6,000.

3. Tribal Tourism Development/4 Corners Heritage Council

Site: 4-Corners area, with emphasis on tribal lands.

Americorps people: 6 personnel to be shared between the affected tribes and the 4-Corners Heritage Council. Skills needed include regional planning, community development, public or business administration, landscape archecture, engineering, recreation planning, interpretation and environmental education.

Objectives:

All of the Tribes within the 4-Corners are pursuing tourism development as an economic development strategy. The Heritage Council was commissioned by the Governors of the four affected states with a charter to develop locally-based heritage tourism opportunities, with an emphasis on providing an economic boost to the tribes and rural communities. They have 4 mutual objectives (projects) for 1994-97:

1. Community Tourism Development Plans on the Navajo Reservation

2. Tourism / Recreation Facilities Site Plans on the Navajo Reservation.

3. Train Native American Resource Interpreters

4. Archeaeological Research, Guided Tours, and Ruin Stabilization on the Ute Mtn Ute Tribal Park.

In-kind contributions: Unestimated contibutions at this time.

4. FOUR CORNERS BUSINESS AND EXPANSION PROGRAM

AREA DESCRIPTION: Interested communities, counties, and Indian Tribes within the the following counties: NM- San Juan, Rio Arriba, McKinnely, Sandoval, Taos Cibola, Mora. AZ- Apache, Navajo, Coconino, CO- La Plata, Archuleta, Montrose, Ouray. UT- San Juan, Garfield, Kane.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Develop a business retention and expansion (R&E) program for the Four Corners region. This program is a part of the overall SPARCS effort: a Team USDA, multi-agency, multi-state effort.
The purpose of this program is to identify and solve business problems related to survival, expansion and start-up and thereby to strengthen and/or increase economic activity. The program would require a full-time coordinator familier with the area who would serve all the program participants. The coordinator would work with a regional resource team comprised of representatives from the USFS, FmHA, RDA, CE, SBDC, COG's and state economic development departments and local citizens.

AMERICORPS NEEDS: One full-time coordinator and a minimum of 2 support staff. Skills in business, economic development and community planning would be required. A masters degree would be preferred. Cost of the program for the first year would be $200,000.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: One GS-11 or 12 to serve on the regional resource team. Approximate time involved is 15-25 days. Cost: Salary- $3200, Travel- $1500.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS WITHIN THE 4-CORNERS SITE

The following summaries from each Region describe the ongoing partnerships and projects under the RCA program, already occurring within the 4-Corners Site, that will be carried over into 1995, that would be supported by the placement of Americorps teams in each of the 4 states.

This proposal is jointly prepared and submitted under a multi-agency / multi jurisdictional approach to enhancing the viabilty of rural communities and Tribes in the Four Corners Area (Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico) through existing strategic partnerships. The Americorps program will provide an infusion of assistance into new alliances, shared visions and collaborative approaches addressing community problems and change identified by communities and Tribes in the Four Corners Area.

APPROACH:

This proposal takes advantage of existing community based planning, partnerships and networks established in the last 2 years to work with rural people, communities and Tribes to create jobs, increase family income, generate community revenue, and enhance the quality of life in the Four Corners area.

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS: Region 2

(1) Site: Colorado portion of 4-Corners area

Community - Public Lands Partnership (CPLP)

This partnership includes the municipalites and counties of Southwestern Colorado, the U.S.Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Fort Lewis College, the Colorado Dept. of Transportation, the Southwestern Colorado Travel Region, and the Four Corners Heritage Council. This partnership focuses on joint efforts between local communities, and public land agencies in areas of resource management, collaborative planning, research, economic diversification and publis policy. On going projects include:

-Second Growth Pine Zone Ecosystem Mgt. Planning
-R-9 (5 county) Economic Development Plan
-Regional Intermodal Transportation planning GIS inventory including San Juan Skyway.
-San Juan National Forest forest plan revision process - collaborative planning. Linking National Forest planning and community strategic planning

The CPLP is being funded by grants from the Forest Service and Fort Lewis College Office of Community Services. technical assistance is being provided by a variety of partners and the FS.

(2) Americorps People — Three corp members will be assigned to the Community-Public Lands Partnership. Skills needed will include Community/Land Use planners, economists, GIS, facilitation of processes, Tourism-Recreation planners, value added forest products and Agriculture.

(3) Objectives — See attached Region 9 Matrix of Economic Development Initiatives matrix, By Sector/by County.

(4) In-Kind Contribution — San Juan National Forest will contribute 1-GS-12 FTE, travel and training to facilitate partnerships, work with the CPLP and Americorps Value of in kind $65,000.

USFS Fin. assist.- $25,000 for CPLP
- $10,000 for Heritage Council
- $30,000 Pine Zone EM project
- $10,000 RCA community support
- $10,000 Four Corners Monu pro
$10,000 SPARCs Initiative
$123,,000

TOTAL IN KIND $ 65,000
TOTAL DIRECT $ 123,000

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS: Region 3

(1) Site: ARIZONA and NEW MEXICO portions of 4-Corners area

Local Community Partnerships

These partnership includes the municipalities and counties of Northeastern Arizona, Northwestern New Mexico, the U.S.Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the New Mexico and Arizona Departments of Commerce, Tourism and Transportation, the New Mexico Rural Development Council and the Four Corners Heritage Council. The partnerships focus on joint efforts between local communities, Action Teams, Tribes and public agencies in areas of resource management, recycling, collaborative planning, research, and economic diversification. On-going efforts in 1994-95 include $408,000 in grant funds for a variety of projects throughout the New Mexico and Arizona portions of the 4-Corners:

New Mexico

Torrence County - Action Team Training	$ 2,000
Pueblo of Zuni - Sawmill	18,000
Sandoval County - Tourism Plan	5,000
Navajo Nation, Ramah Pueblo- Saddle Manufacturing Study/Plan	18,000
Grants/Milan - Pellet Study	18,000
Navajo Nation, Window Rock - Value Added Wood Products	18,000
Cuba - Rio Puerco Watershed Planning and Rehab	18,000
Cochiti Pueblo - Aquaculture Study	18,000
Nambe Pueblo - Recreation Plan	17,000
Pojoaque Pueblo - Herb Garden	18,000
Mora County - Action Plan development	3,000
El Rito Area - Workshops, Water Plan, Workcenter	51,000
Costilla/Amalia - Woodworkers Cooperative	18,000
Questa - Livestock Arena	18,000
Ganados Del Valle - Wool Products Study	18,000

New Mexico subtotal $259,000

Arizona

1.	Community Park--Tuba City (Navajo Nation)	$18,000
2.	Cameron Tourism Plan/Projects (Navajo Nation)	18,000
3.	Arizona American Indian Tourism Conference	7,000
4.	Heber Action Team start-up	5,000
5.	Pinyon-Juniper Study--White Mountain AT	18,000
6.	Laminated Beam Study--Springerville AT	9,000
7.	Sandstone Marketing--Little Colorado RC&D	8,000
		10,000
8.	Tourism Plan--White Mountain Apache Tribe	18,000
9.	Wool/Mohair Study--Shiprock SC&D	18,000
10.	SPARCS project	10,000
11.	4-Corners Heritage Council	10,000

Arizona Subtotal $149,000

Grand Total $ 488,000

(2) Americorps People — Two teams of three members each will be assigned to support the above listed projects and partnerships. One team will be assigned to northern Arizona to work through the Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests; the other team will be assigned to the Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe NF's of northwestern New Mexico. Skills needed will include community/regional planners, economists, GIS, facilitation/mediation, tourism/recreation planners, and business/cooperative development, with emphasis in value added forest products and agriculture.

(3) Objectives — See above-listed description of partnerships and roster of on-going projects.

(4) In-Kind Contribution — The Cibola, Santa Fe, Carson, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests will supply supervision, office space/support and transportation. GS grade of RCA coordinators ranges from GS11-13.
Value of in kind-- $105,000.

Direct financial assistance: $408,000

TOTAL IN KIND $ 70,000
TOTAL DIRECT $ 408,000

TIMBER BRIDGE/WOOD IN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

AREA DESCRIPTION: Communties, counties, and Indian Tribes within the following counties: NM- San Juan, Rio Arriba, McKinnely, Sandoval, Cibola, Mora, Taos. AZ- Apache, Navajo, Coconino.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Most counties in the region have been reluctant to pursue projects under the FS TBI because of limited funding and staff support. Most counties have limited access to people with engineering skills to assist them in the development of timber bridge proposals and in the construction of the bridges. This project would involve recruitment of an engineering graduate student to assist interested counties, communities, and Indian Tribes in identifying there bridge needs, help in the development of proposals and oversee construction.
The wood utilization conference scheduled to be held in Farmington, NM in the fall of 1994 will include timber bridge technology and construction as well as demonstration of the SLAM timber bridge design program. It is expected that this conference will increase interest in timber bridges. Local RC&D's in cooperation with the Forest Service will sponsor this conference.

AMERICORPS NEEDS: One full-time engineering graduate student. Skills in planning and marketing would be desirable. Cost- $50,000.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: Regional and Forest RCA and Engineering personnel: $4,000

HOPI NAVAJO COMMUNITY PLANNING

(1) Sites — State of Arizona, Northeast Corner (Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservation).

(2) Americorps People — One Strategic Planner (preferred) or Small Business Developer. Prefer Graduate School Level.

(3) Objectives — Community based economic planning on the Hopi and Navajo Indian Reservations, working primarily with Chapters Houses and local communities. Planning will be for tourism, small business development, and infrastructure requirements. Estimate 3 to 4 plans in progress each year for two to three years. Unemployment is currently 50 to 80% (depending on chapter or community).

(4)	In-Kind Contribution	GM-13 Planner:	
		30 days at $ 232.00/day	$ 6,960
		Travel	1,500
		Other	1,392
		GM-13 RCD Coordinator	
		30 days at $ 232.00/day	6,960
		Travel	1,500
		Other	1,542
		GM-11 Planner/Community Develop Spec	
		90 days at $ 176.00/day	15,840
		Travel	2,000
		Other	1,784
	Estimated Total:		$ 39,478

For more information: Contact Parks Hilliard, Coconino National Forest
602-527-3506 v/tty

95 RDF 032

Minnesota

Program Summary:

AmeriCorps - Rural Development Corps
Developing Sustainable Economies in Minnesota Communities

Needs to be Met

Environment

Development of community-based sustainable economic development strategies using renewable natural resources in ways that protect and enhance the environment is the primary need to be met by this program. Corps members will help communities identify environmentally sound economic alternatives, provide technical assistance in analyzing these alternatives, and work with community and business leaders to implement essential projects that lead to sustainable economic activity. Corps members will provide technical support skills often unavailable in rural communities.

Corps members will provide technical support in a wide variety of areas to existing rural businesses and entrepreneurs wishing to start businesses. Activities will focus on enhancing production of value-added products from forest resources, helping rural communities capitalize on travel and tourism opportunities, developing businesses based on recycled products, and supporting development of community-based economic development organizations.

Education

Corps memebers will be working in a mentored environment where professional Forest Service and State Forester's staff provide guidance and direction. Training will focus on developing interpersonal skills, collaborative planning skills, group involvement skills, consensus building skill, and meeting management skills. Corps members will be utilizing their technical skills in a real world environment. They will learn much about the decision-making process in rural communities and how to help diverse groups reach consensus on difficult issues.

Human Needs

Corps members will become part of a team effort to assist rural communities in making informed decisions as citizens identify, develop and implement sustainable economic development strategies. Corps members will be asked to apply their technical skills in real world situations which will affect the future of the communities in which they work. This involvement at the local level will familiarize Corps members with the resources, needs, and aspirations of rural communities and increase their awareness of rural people. These efforts will improve the decision-making capabilities of the Corps members, and provide new experiences to broaden their cultural awareness.

Corps member activities are expected to have a significant positive impact on the economy of rural West Virginia. The technical expertise that Corps members will bring to bear in assisting existing businesses will help them become more competitive in both domestic and international markets. Targeted market research efforts will identify new products, business development efforts will improve the use of technology, updated management systems, improved advertising/sales techniques, and worker training programs implemented on-site will help improve business profitability and competitiveness. Business growth, job creation, and increased opportunities for value-added manufacturing opportunities will result. Corps members will also support the development of home-based and micro-businesses. Corps members will help prepare business plans, assist in the preparation of financing packages, assist in grantwriting, and develop micro-loan programs in rural communities to help generate successful small businesses.

Program Design

Corps members will be living in the St. Paul area and working thoughout the state. Rental housing assistance is available through the University of Minnesota housing placement service. Travel and per diem expenses will be paid when overnight travel is required. When project work requires extended travel periods, arrangements have been made for housing at State Parks and college campuses throughout the State.

Program Elements

Self-confidence and practical experience in project planning, group process, consensus building, team work, multi-cultural awareness, and in natural resource based sustainable economic development will be gained from this program. Work experience will involve a variety of technical efforts done in conjunction with a variety of partners. This includes designing, producing, mailing and analyzing five broad-based surveys aimed at a determining community needs such as improvement in manufacturing base, market characteristics, demographics, etc. These will provide the basis for 18 needs assessments, one for each of the 18 counties served. From these, about 36 market research projects will be undertaken with new and existing businesses looking at what these companies are producing and what they are capable of producing, what new sales opportunities may exist or be potentially available. These will lead the the development of about 18 business plans. Five infrastructure improvement projects will be planned, and designed aimed at transportation facilities, industrial and building facilities such as dust control systems, timber bridges and multi-modal transportation facilities. Ten worker training programs will be designed and implemented. These will address employment and management needs. Approximately 18 financing plans will be developed for small businesses, and 10 revolving loan funds will be established. Ten community foundations will be established and 18 counties will be given grantwriting assistance. Additional work experience will be gained in group decision-making, consensus building, and grass roots planning processes.

Self-confidence and practical experience in project planning, group process, consensus building, team work, multi-cultural awareness, and in natural resource based sustainable economic development will be gained from this

program. Work experience will involve a variety of technical efforts including needs assessments, surveys, market research, business plan development, infrastructure improvement, worker training program design and implementation, development of financing plans for small businesses, developing revolving loan funds, developing community foundations, grantwriting, and a myriad of other technical efforts needed by small rural communities. Additional work experience will be gained in group decision-making, consensus building, and grass roots planning processes.

Recruitment Goals

Our primary recruitment goal is to identify college students from rural Minnesota that are enrolled as juniors, seniors, or graduate students in Minnesota colleges or universities, or students from Minnesota that are attending out-of-state schools, that wish to gain appropriate job experience. Contacts have been developed with administrative offices at schools in Minnesota and with high school counselors throughout the state to identify likely candidates attending colleges outside the state. We are also contact 1890 Schools to determine student interest in participating in this program. Tribal governments in the state will also be contacted to determine the availability of tribal members attending college that would benefit from this type of work experience. We hope to create a diverse Corps workforce through these strategies.

Administering Organization

The USDA Forest Service's Northeastern Area will be the administering organization. Currently, we hire many summer interns for a variety of activities. This program will be an extension of that effort. Our emphasis to to provide practical experience within the framework of community-based economic development. Such practical experience should improve the employability of the Corps members. This practical experience will be supported by specific training designed to meet the needs of the Corps members in working with community-based economic development.

Program Partners

The program will be run in cooperation with a variety of partners. These partners will assist in planning, coordination, training, implementation, and monitoring the program. These program partners are:

The Minnesota Rural Develpment Board
The Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Technology, Inc.
The University of Minnesota
North Central Forest Experiment Station
Small Business Development Centers
Natural Resources Research Institute at UM-Duluth
Iron Range Revitalization Board
Cooperative Extension Service

Upper Midwest Technology Transfer Center
Minnesota county governments

Participant Benefits

Each participant will receive:

- Stipend
- End of program scholarship
- Room and meals
- Housing subsidy
- Critical work expwerience in their major field
- Transportation to and from work site

95RDFA33

AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM INFORMATION
REGION 8

Proposal Summary

This proposal describes how AmeriCorps participants could be utilized to provide needed services to rural communities in South Carolina, the Mississippi Delta Region and in the Appalachain region. Some of the AmeriCorps participants may live in the communities they serve, others may come from areas outside the region representing a diversity of participants. The purpose of providing AmeriCorps participants through the Rural Community Assistance Program will be to provide needed skills to assist communities to become self-sufficient and maintain diverse economies. The theme of the Rural Community Assistance Program is to "Help People Help Themselves".

Particular skills needed to accomplish this goal include the following:

- Leadership
- Planning
- Implementation (persons to put the plans into action, serve as catalyst)
- Technology Transfer (replicating success)
- Outreach (making contacts with communities, asking what they need)
- Educational (trainers and specialists)
- Partnership Development (collaborating, sharing resources)
- Infrastructure (Wood in Transportation)

Site	Objectives	# AmeriCorps	Corp. $	FS FY95 $
SC	Leadership & Econ. Dev.	2	2,000	50,000
MS Delta	Recycling	2	2,000	60,000
	Wood in Transportation	2	2,000	60,000
	Leadership & Econ. Dev.	6	6,000	120,000
		10	10,000	240,000
Appalachian	Leadership & Econ. Dev.	4	4,000	100,000
		16	16,000	390,000

South Carolina

South Carolina has the 2nd highest minority population in the Southern region, composed primarily of African Americans. An essential need for these communities is to develop community based leadership and to develop sustainable economies. Developing and identifying community leaders in targeted areas is the first step towards building capacity and enabling the community to set it's own vision and attain their goals. Models of this type of training are available from the Extension Service, state agencies, and consultants to accomplish this objective.

Persons with a diverse background and understanding of African American culture would be desirable candidates. Interpersonal skills, ability to listen and facilitation skills would be required. Community College students and college students would be desired. Some of the skills needed can be developed through mentoring with agency personnel, including facilitation, meeting management, and strategic planning skills.

Project Implementation:

A state committee, composed of representatives working with ongoing rural development efforts, such as the State Forester, Francis Marion and Sumter National Forest, Extension Service, and the State Rural Development Council, would be utilized to determine priority needs for placement of AmeriCorps volunteers. Communities with demonstrated need, based on demongraphic and census data, would be contacted. All communities would have an opportunity to apply for an AmeriCorps volunteer. The state committee would set priorities for available assistance. A series of Economic Development Specialists would be assigned to rural sites throughout the state on a short or long term basis depending on identified needs.

Prior to placement, the AmeriCorps volunteer would receive training in sustainable economic development and leadership principles. Existing training modules, such as the Palmetto Leadership program, and consultant services would be utilized to provide training and meterials for field application. Participating communities will identify a community contact person who will work directly with the AmeriCorps volunteer. This person would also recieve leadership training with the AmeriCorps volunteer.

Projected Accomplishments:

Estimate that based on utilization of two (2) Americorp participants, approximately six (6) counties will be served through leadership and economic development workshops.

Mississippi Delta (MS Counties: Desoto, Tunica, Panola, Coahoma, Bolivar, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Washington, Sunflower, Carrol, Charkey, Holmes, Humphreys, Yazoo, Wassren, Issaquena, Claiborne, and Jefferson. AR Counties: Crittenden, Lee, Phillips, Desha, and Chicot. LA Counties: East Carroll, West Carroll, Madison, Tensas, and Concordia)

Wood in Transportation:

The governor of Mississippi recently signed legislation to authorize replacement of over 6,000 unsafe bridges. Opportunities exist to promote "Wood in Transportation" by having qualified Engineering students and graduates working through AmeriCorps would provide technical assistance to communities wanting to install timber bridges. Forest Service employees would work with these students to acquire skills needed in planning, construction and inspection of timber bridges and other wood in transportation projects. These AmeriCorp participants could also transfer the bridge technology to areas where potential projects could be duplicated and demonstrate the advantages of wooden bridges. Initial training and coordination of these outreach activities can be provided by Forest Service regional timber bridge coordinator. Existing audio-visual aids are avialable for this purpose.

Recycling Technology:

An opportunity exists to transfer recycling technology from existing rural and urban projects to other sites. Development of recycling programs following these models could be duplicated in other areas of the Delta region in order to create jobs and address environmental concerns. Below are 2 ongoing examples of the types of projects AmeriCorps volunteers would be involved in.

1) In Tupelo, Mississippi, an urban waste recycling project effectively utilizes yard waste and creates a marketable landscaping product. Not only does this technology provide additional jobs and income to the community, it also reduces the amount of materials going into the local landfill.
2) In Franklin County, Mississippi, a rural recycling project employs disabled workers to recycle glass, paper and aluminum cans. This type of project provides employment opportunities and a sense of community pride to all involved.

Leadership and Economic Development:

By working with partnerships developed from ongoing activities AmeriCorps participants would work with local community leaders to meet specific community needs, particularly with ongoing social programs, education and infrastructure needs. For example, local leaders developed from the Copiah County leadership development workshops in Hazelhurst Mississippi may be able to utilize a Business major to assist citizens in establishing small businesses.

Ongoing outreach efforts can be enhanced by collaborating with 1890 institutions and black colleges. Alcorn State has capacity grants for education programs from daycare kindergarden through high school. Future needs for these programs could be identified in local areas, and local leaders could incorporate these social needs into their economic development plans. For

example, many persons are unable to work due to child care needs. An AmeriCorp participant would work with community leaders to develop practical solutions.

Other predominately black colleges such as Rust have provided leadership workshops for minority communities to build capacity. AmeriCorp participants could work side by side with rural sociologists and other experts in these fields to develop and disseminate this information. Additionally a study could address the social changes needed to improve the economy of the region and begin implementation plans for practical solutions.

The Black Belt studies initiated at North Carolina State University could provide opportunities to implement social changes needed to improve the economy of the region. A graduate student could utilize this opportunity to prepare a thesis and develop implementation plans for practical solutions.

Projected Accomplishments:

Emphasis on this location is on Outreach efforts for all three (3) projects. Twenty-nine (29) counties in three (3) states will be contacted. Desired outcomes are (3) Wood in Transportation fabrication projects serving multi-county areas, (5) recycling initiatives, and (12) economic development and leadership workshops.

Appalachia (TN, KY, GA, VA, WV, NC)

Rural Tourism:

Rural tourism efforts have been underway in this region featuring recreational and aesthetic opportunities. Local partners have needs for tour guides with interpretive skills, recreation planners, tourism surveys, and marketing. The AmeriCorps participant would work directly with government and non-profit organizations such as Appalachian Regional Commission to provide these skills and services to local communities and the region in general.

Economic Development Coordinators:

Another need identified in this area is to hire professional Economic Development Coordinators who would seek business development opportunities for an area. Business students could work with these professionals and local communities. Environmental students could work in these areas to identify issues of environmental concern with related new business ventures.

AmeriCorps participants could work with State Rural Development Councils to identify needs and target projects. Communities with demonstrated need, based on demographic and census data, would be contacted. AmeriCorps specialists would be assigned to projects depending on identified needs and priorities.

Prior to placement, the AmeriCorps volunteer would receive training in sustainable economic and leadership principles. Existing training modules and consultant services would be utilized to provide training and meterials for field application. Participating communities will identify a community contact person who will work directly them.

Wood Utilization:

Working with state forestry organizations, an opportunities exists for an AmeriCorps participant to work with professional Wood Utilization Foresters. The objective would be to promote alternative wood products and value added manufacturing technologies.

Working under the direction of the State Forester, this AmeriCorps participant would provide technology transfer to local communties as requested. One potential customer would be the RC&D councils in developing Forestry Measure Plans. Another activity would be assistance to the state utilization forester in marketing, analysis and training in forest products, conservation, and recycling.

Projected Accomplishments:

Desired outcomes will be to assist (6) government and/or non-profit organizations in implementation of existing and proposed local initiatives.