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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Marla Marvin, Office of Senator Murray

From: Joel Berg, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

For your information, the attached memo formally went to our field offices today.

We will follow-up rapidly with the Corporation for National Service to determine ways that our former projects can apply on their own to continue next year. We will particularly focus on projects on Forest Service lands.

Thank you again for all your help on this matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Ashley Abbott, Office of Congressman
Baldacci**

From: Joel Berg, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

For your information, the attached memo formally went to our field offices today.

We will follow-up rapidly with the Corporation for National Service to determine ways that our former projects can apply on their own to continue next year.

Thank you again for all your help on this matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Debi Tekavec, Office of Congressman Murtha

From: Joel Berg, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

For your information, the attached memo formally went to our field offices today.

We will follow-up rapidly with the Corporation for National Service to determine ways that our former projects can apply on their own to continue next year.

Thank you again for all your help on this matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 720-5746.

From: Joel Berg
To: TAMONTREE
Date: 2/4/97 3:23pm
Subject: Performance Review for Ms. Katherine Gibney

** Proprietary **

Per your request, I completed and signed the most recent performance appraisal for Ms. Katherine Gibney. Craig Smith in Human Resources Management has informed me that I should not provide Ms. Gibney with the document before it is signed by a final reviewer. Craig provided me with the Departmental regulation, approved by OPM, which stipulates this requirement.

At this point in time, I believe you are the reviewing officer for Ms. Gibney's position, as was Ali when she was Director of Communications. However, you may be able to write a memo formally delegating this authority to Sedelta.

If we submit a document to any employee without the required two signatures, we may open OC to liability. Particularly given OC's leadership role in communicating the entire Department's commitment to civil rights, we should be especially careful that we ourselves follow all the Department's exact rules in this regard.

I will give Ms. Gibney's appraisal to Sandy Odum in a sealed envelope. Please let me know if you would like me to provide you with a detailed written explanation of why I have recommended the suggested rating.

I am not trying to make the process more difficult. I am simply trying to legally protect OC and all parties involved, including yourself, by carefully following all Departmental regulations

CC: SVERBLE



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Tom Geier, Office of Senator Snowe

From: Joel Berg, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

For your information, the attached memo formally went to our field offices today.

We will follow-up rapidly with the Corporation for National Service to determine ways that our former projects can apply on their own to continue next year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Joe Trujillo, Office of Senator Dominici

From: Joel Berg, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

For your information, the attached memo formally went to our field offices today.

We will follow-up rapidly with the Corporation for National Service to determine ways that our former projects can apply on their own to continue next year.

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Elizabeth Humphrey
Office of Congressman Blumnauer**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

8 pages, including this cover

Per your request, attached is updated information on the status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program, as well as list of sites and accomplishments in Oregon in the last program year.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.

no



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Scott Barnhart, Office of Senator Mack

O.K.

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

8 pages, including this cover

Brian Hall of Senator Graham's office suggested I send you the attached information about a situation that threatens to end effective projects in Florida.

Attached is information about the success of AmeriCorps projects sponsored by USDA in Florida last year. One of the projects, based in Homestead, saved 20 million gallons of water, saving citizens \$675,732 in water bills.

Unfortunately, as explained in the attached fact sheet, all USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in Florida will be canceled shortly if we can not reach an agreement with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process. Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.

AmeriCorps National Service

15600 S.W. 288 Street * Suite 402, Box 7
Homestead, FL 33033

Fax: (305) 242-1292 Tele: (305) 242-1218

INTRODUCTION-FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT

The AmeriCorps project in Homestead has been a complete success. From the beginning of the year we set our priorities and maintained a wide yet clear perspective of our goals. Urban water conservation has been our first concern. We received intensive training from several experts in different fields related to water conservation. Chris Mikler, author of the Urban Irrigation Evaluations Training Manual trained the team on performing irrigation evaluations. Ramon Santiago, NRCS Area Engineer from Lake Worth, Florida, trained the team to recognize different types of soils. Charles Yurgalevitch, Ph.D., of the Homestead Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) has been our mentor from the beginning. This initial preparation was the first step to a productive year.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) recorded 728 billion gallons of water used in 1995. Over 50% of this water was for urban usage, the rest was for agriculture. Irrigation evaluations led homeowners to understand the efficiency of their system and provided them with recommendations on repairing and maintaining their systems to conserve water. After completing our goal of 300 evaluations and 150 follow-up evaluations, we can proudly take credit for over 20 million gallons of water saved in South Florida! That means saving more than \$675,732.00 dollars in Dade County. Along with irrigation evaluations, AmeriCorps has produced an indoor water conservation brochure in English, Spanish, and Creole. The brochure gives several ideas on saving water inside homes.

AmeriCorps has actively participated in other projects besides irrigation evaluations. The Water for South Florida Grant permitted us to work with school children of all ages. We were involved with over 2,000 Dade County students including Howdy Camp, a summer camp. All phases of environmental education were demonstrated by the MIL and AmeriCorps, including presentations of the "Drip and Drop" skit. What these students learned in one day will save them water and money through out a life time, even if they only remember to turn off their faucets while they are brushing their teeth.

Another project we are actively involved with is the Clean Organic Waste (C.O.W.) project. It is a two year compost project, funded by the Dade Solid Waste Department. There we remove some of the plastic, metal and glass from the compost product.

Participating within the community was evident in several of our activities. On April 23, 1996 a Tabebuia tree was planted in memory of the Oklahoma City bomb victims. Manuel Diaz Farms, a local nursery, generously donated the tree. We excavated the area for the six foot yellow trumpet tree. Many of the employees from the South Dade Government Center took part in this event. On July 13-14, AmeriCorps together with the MIL, managed by Dr. Charles Yurgalevitch hosted a booth at the Annual Ag Fiesta at the Fruit and Spice Park. There we promoted water conservation by distributing brochures and pamphlets. We are currently assisting the "National Food Recovery Week" and have collected over 2,500 pieces of clothing and canned goods to be donated to a local shelter, Community Partnership Shelter of Miami. Finally, we are proud to announce our approval for an AmeriCorps Mini grant. This will provide water saving devices for 150 cooperators.

Even though next year's continuation of this AmeriCorps is uncertain, we feel proud of the accomplishments for this team. We feel our mission will not end with AmeriCorps for what we learned this year is only the beginning to of a lifetime of progress in conserving our natural resources.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Kelley Teske, Office of Kempthorne

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

6 pages, including this cover

As we discussed, last year USDA sponsored AmeriCorps water quality projects in Idaho in Burely, Coeur d'Alene, Pocatello, Caldwell, Idaho Falls, Orofino, Moscow, Island Park, Emmet, Lewiston, Gooding, Meridan, Boise, Weiser, and Twin Falls.

The projects --- which were supported by significant state and private funds in addition to USDA funds --- provided water quality information to 81,636 Idaho home and land owners and helped 223 families voluntarily take concrete action to protect their drinking water.

As explained on the attached fact sheet, all our similar projects planned for this year in Idaho will be canceled by the end of next week if we do not reach a compromise with Senators Bond and Grassley on this matter.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Tom Frazier
Office of Senator Abraham**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

8 pages, including this cover

Per our discussion, the attached fact sheet explaining how the USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in Michigan will be cancelled shortly if we can not reach an agreemnt with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Also attached is updated information of the success of our Michigan projects last year.

Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Mike Rusell, Raissa Qunital
Office of Senator Campbell**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

5 pages, including this cover

As explained in the attached (revised) fact sheet, the USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in Colorado will be cancelled shortly if we can not reach an agreeemnt with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Also attached is updated information of the success of our Colorado projects last year that were based in Durango but perfomed service throughout the Four Corners area.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC

November 7, 1996

Mr. Vince Ancell
Director, Office of Congressional Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Room 213A, ADMBG
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Ancell:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter that I have received from constituents of mine regarding delays in funding for EnviroCorps, a USDA/AmeriCorps program that works with local sponsors on environmental education and enhancement in the Portland (Oregon) area.

As you will note, Messrs. Cannon and Dallaire report that EnviroCorps is currently waiting to start its third year but cannot do so until a consensus is reached between the USDA and Senators Bond and Grassley and funds are released.

Because of my interest in this matter, I would encourage the Department in doing whatever is possible to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

MOH/aw

505-326 - 3386



**To: Kate Lambrew, Office of Senator Cohen
Tom Geier, Office of Senator Snowe**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

13 pages, including this cover

Thank you so much for taking time to meet last week on the USDA AmeriCorps issue.

Per your request, attached is updated information about site accomplishments in Maine in last year's program.

As is indicated on the attached revised fact sheet, our greatest current focus is on determining whether Senator Bond will agree to a compromise that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Kate Lambrew, Office of Senator Cohen
Tom Geier, Office of Senator Snowe**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

15 pages, including this cover

Per your request, attached is information on project tasks in Maine that would be halted before completion if the USDA AmeriCorps program is ended now.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Joe Trujillo
Office of Senator Dominici**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

8 pages, including this cover

Attached is an updated fact sheet that explains why all USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in New Mexico will be canceled shortly if we can not reach an agreement with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Also attached is updated information on the success of our New Mexico projects last year.

Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



To: Joe Trujillo, Office of Senator Dominici

From: Joel Berg, USDA

10 pages, including this cover

Per our discussion, attached is an updated fact sheet on the status of the USDA AmeriCorps program. As is clarified by the attached memorandum from our office of general counsel, we still have the legal ability to run a program *without* operating funds from the Corporation for National Service.

Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Carol McGuire
Senate Budget Committee**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

8 pages, including this cover

Attached is an updated fact sheet that explains why all USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in New Mexico will be canceled shortly if we can not reach an agreement with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Also attached is updated information on the success of our New Mexico projects last year.

Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Melvin Thompson, Office of Cong. Gilchrest

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

5 pages, including this cover

As explained in the attached, revised fact sheet, all USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in your district will be canceled shortly if we can not reach an agreement with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Also attached is updated information on the success of our projects in your district last year.

Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Jim Low
Office of Senator Ford**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

10 pages, including this cover

Attached is an updated fact sheet that explains why all USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in Kentucky will be canceled shortly if we can not reach an agreement with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process. Also attached is a memo from our Kentucky Rural Development office explaining how critical projects in the state will be stopped before completion if the USDA AmeriCorps program is ended immediately.

Lastly, attached is updated information on the success of our Kentucky projects last year.

Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Susan Hildick, Patrick Atagi
Office of Senator Hatfield**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

8 pages, including this cover

Attached is updated information on the status of the overall USDA AmeriCorps program, as well as an updated list of site accomplishments in Oregon in the last program year.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Mike McGinn, Office of Senator Graham

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

7 pages, including this cover

As explained in the attached fact sheet, all all USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in Florida will be canceled shortly if we can not reach an agreement with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Also attached is updated information on the success of our Florida last year.

Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Brian Hall, Office of Senator Graham

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

8 pages, including this cover

As we discussed, attached is information about the success of USDA AmeriCorps projects in Florida last year. One of the projects, based in Homestead, saved 20 million gallons of water, saving citizens \$675,732 in water bills.

As explained in the attached fact sheet, all USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in Florida will be canceled shortly if we can not reach an agreement with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Catriona MacDonald, Office of Cong. Hoyer

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

6 pages, including this cover

As explained in the attached, revised fact sheet, all USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in your district will be canceled shortly if we can not reach an agreement with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Also attached is updated information on the success of our projects in your district last year.

Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Robert Richard, Office of Senator Hutchinson
Michael Gerber, Office of Senator Gramm**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

11 pages, including this cover

Thank you so much for taking time to meet with me last week.

Following up on our discussion, I checked with our Office of General Counsel whether USDA could also pay for education awards for members of a national service program. They believe we do NOT have existing authority to do so and would not have such authority even if we sought approval from Congress to reprogram funds. The bottom line is that USDA does not have broad authority to provide educational awards for community service --- that is why we need a cooperative agreement with the Corporation for National Service.

The meeting we held with other Hill staff following our meeting agreed upon a consensus that our greatest current focus should be determining whether Senator Bond will agree to a compromise that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process. (See attached revised fact sheet).

Also attached is an article from *Texas Town & City* that touches on the success of our project in Luling, as well as year-end results from all our projects in Texas last year.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Sherry Kaiman

From: Joel Berg

7 pages, including this cover

As explained in the updated fact sheet which is attached, all USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in Vermont and elsewhere will be canceled shortly if we can not reach an agreement with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Also attached is updated information on the success of our Vermont projects last year.

Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Jay Parkinson
Office of Senator Kempthorne**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

6 pages, including this cover

Attached is an updated fact sheet that explains why all USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in Idaho will be cancelled shortly if we can not reach an agreemnt with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Also attached is updated information of the success of our Idaho projects last year. You will note that our AmeriCorps Members provided drinking water quality information to 81,636 home owners, and directly improved drinking water quality for 233 home onwers.

Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



**To: Jackie Parker
Office of Senator Levin**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

8 pages, including this cover

As you know, Senator Levin has been a strong supporter of the USDA AmeriCorps program; a number of months ago, he swore in some of our AmeriCorps Members in Detroit.

However, as explained on the attached fact sheet, all USDA AmeriCorps projects planned for this year in Michigan will be cancelled shortly if we can not reach an agreemnt with Senator Bond that would allow our projects to temporarily continue as part of a one-year transition process.

Also attached is updated information of the success of our Michigan projects last year. Please call me at (202) 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Jeff Shockey, Office of Congressman Lewis
 Jamie Castillo, Office of Congressman Skeen**

From: Joel Berg, USDA

8 pages, including this cover

I thought you might be interested to see the attached letter from Congressman Goodling, Chair of the House authorizing committee over AmeriCorps, to Congressman Mascara.

The good new for us is that Goodling writes: "It is my understanding that this agreement in no way limits the Department of Agriculture from unilaterally funding AmeriCorps programs." Thus, there seems to be a bi-partisan consensus in the House that USDA *can* continue to use its own funds on AmeriCorps.

However, as is made clear in the attached letter from Senator Bond to Senator Leahy, Senator Bond--- as well as Senator Grassley --- still have reservations about USDA using its own funds to support AmeriCorps projects.

As the attached revised fact sheet indicates, if this issue is not settled almost immediately, USDA will be forced to cancel all our AmeriCorps projects planned for this year. Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

December 19, 1996

Honorable Christopher Bond
Chairman
Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6032

Dear Kit:

I am writing to request your support for an agreement under which the Department of Agriculture (USDA) would be able to continue to assist projects utilizing AmeriCorps members for a transitional period of one program year (fiscal year 1997). Such an agreement would enable the most successful of these projects to convert to a new arrangement, starting in the next program year (fiscal year 1998), in which they would receive funding directly from the Corporation for National Service or from Governor-appointed State commissions of national service.

As you know, in the past 2 years, USDA has provided aid to hundreds of communities--most of which are rural--to allow those communities to utilize AmeriCorps members for projects focused on fighting hunger, promoting economic development, and aiding the environment and public lands. As we discussed in our meeting on September 13, 1996, USDA is continuing to seek a compromise that would allow high quality local projects to continue now that USDA no longer receives a grant of operating funds from the Corporation for National Service.

Hundreds of USDA supported community service projects in over 40 States were scheduled to be completed this year. As in previous years, these projects would have focused on boosting rural community development, improving human nutrition, and protecting the environment. AmeriCorps members would have also worked to recover excess food; I would note that such efforts would be greatly enhanced by the Bill Emerson Food Donation Act that you championed in the Senate. However, all these projects have been placed on hold pending our efforts to identify a mutually-acceptable compromise regarding the future of community service projects previously supported by USDA.

It has been suggested that Congress could consider this matter early next year. Unfortunately, unless we are able to reach a resolution on this issue by December 31, 1996, the projects planned for this year cannot proceed, because AmeriCorps members would not be able to complete the required 1,700 hours term of service by the end of this fiscal year on such an abbreviated schedule.

Corporation for National Service and state commission funds have already been committed and application deadlines have already passed for this year (fiscal year 1997). Thus, it will not be possible to continue the projects now on hold without some financial and logistical support from USDA for at least 1 year of transition.

Pursuant to the mandate of Congress, the Corporation for National Service is no longer making grants to Federal agencies; USDA is not seeking to obtain such a grant. Rather, USDA is requesting that the Corporation for National Service sign a 1-year cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, enabling service projects supported and paid for by USDA to have the legal ability to continue and the graduates of those projects to be able to obtain educational awards.

I hope you will agree that a 1-year transition period is a sensible compromise that would minimize disruption in hundreds of communities across America, particularly rural America, by changes in the role of USDA in supporting projects utilizing AmeriCorps members.

A substantial bipartisan group of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives have contacted USDA and the Corporation for National Service to request that we find some way to continue the effective community service projects in their States and districts. Therefore, I believe there would be significant bipartisan support in both houses of Congress for the compromise we have proposed.

I would greatly appreciate your prompt response in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. An identical letter has been sent to Senators Mikulski and Grassley.

Sincerely,

DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: Linda Theil, Office of Congresswoman
Woolsey**

From: Joel Berg, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

For your information, the attached memo formally went to our field offices today.

We will follow-up rapidly with the Corporation for National Service to determine ways that our former projects can apply on their own to continue next year.

Thank you again for all your help on this matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: David Bowers, Office of Senator Mikulski

From: Joel Berg, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Amy Rainone, Office of Senator Leahy

From: Joel Berg, USDA

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

February 3, 1997

MEMORANDUM FROM THE SECRETARY

TO: USDA Program Managers for Projects Utilizing AmeriCorps Members

SUBJECT: The Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Role in AmeriCorps

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Glickman", written over the "TO:" line of the memorandum.

I regret to inform you that we have been unable to reach an agreement with Congress that will allow us to continue directly running service projects that utilize AmeriCorps members. Therefore, we have no choice but to cancel those projects planned for this year.

I want to thank you for your tremendous effort and patience in implementing previous projects utilizing AmeriCorps members--and in working towards a possible implementation of similar projects this year. You have exemplified the best of public service through your efforts to reinvent government by creating service projects that achieved concrete, measurable results fighting hunger, protecting the environment, and boosting rural communities. In just 2 years of operation, these projects directly aided over 1 million citizens and improved over 400,000 acres of land. Last summer alone, a handful of AmeriCorps members aided by USDA recovered over 1,000 tons of excess food--enough to provide over 1.3 million meals. You should be forever proud of these achievements.

It is important to note that, while projects sponsored directly by USDA will not continue this year, growing bipartisan support for the overall AmeriCorps program has allowed the program as a whole to thrive. This year, the overall program will enable 25,000 citizens to earn money for post-secondary education by serving their nation. Your past efforts in pioneering high-quality projects throughout the nation played a significant role in building public support for the overall program. I believe history will show that USDA's early involvement in AmeriCorps played a major role in making national service a permanent fixture in American life.

In the months and years ahead, USDA and the Corporation for National Service will work closely together to find alternative ways to continue the important work you and your projects have started. We will work hard to guarantee that rural America is fully served by AmeriCorps, and that community service projects focused on fighting hunger, boosting community development, protecting the environment, and preserving public lands will continue.

Although I must again state my regret that we are forced to cancel our projects, I am confident that your energy and expertise will, in the future, continue to be focused on positive ways to engage citizens in improving our nation.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

February 3, 1997

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

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SUBJECT: The Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Role in AmeriCorps

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In the months and years ahead, USDA and the Corporation for National Service will work closely together to find alternative ways to continue the important work you and your projects have started. We will work hard to guarantee that rural America is fully served by AmeriCorps, and that community service projects focused on fighting hunger, boosting community development, protecting the environment, and preserving public lands will continue.

Although I must again state my regret that we are forced to cancel our projects, I am confident that your energy and expertise will, in the future, continue to be focused on positive ways to engage citizens in improving our nation.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

February 3, 1997

MEMORANDUM FROM THE SECRETARY

TO: USDA Program Managers for Projects Utilizing AmeriCorps Members

SUBJECT: The Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Role in AmeriCorps

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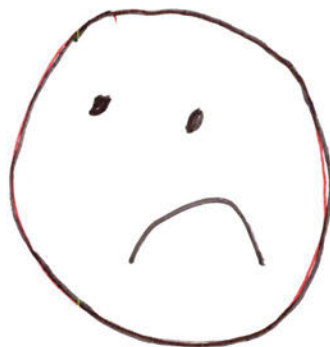
UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Hank

From: Joel

3 pages, including this cover

FYI





UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Harris Wofford, Frank Beal, Gene Sofer

From: Joel Berg

2 pages, including this cover

For your information, the attached memo formally went to our field offices today.

I am most anxious to follow-up with CNS on the Summit and on finding ways to continue rural programs.

Please feel free to contact me at 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Alan Stark

From: Joel Berg

2 pages, including this cover

For your information, the attached memo formally went to our field offices today.

We will follow-up rapidly with the Corporation for National Service to determine ways that our former projects can apply on their own to continue next year.

Thank you once again for all your help.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 720-5746.



STATE OF KANSAS
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Region 4 Office
6232 E. 29th North
Wichita, KS 67220
316/683-8069 FAX 316/683-4664



January 24, 1997

Joel Berg
Director of National Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Ag Box 1301
Washington, DC. 20250-1301

Dear Mr. Berg:

I wanted to thank you for all your assistance in coordinating the USDA AmeriCorps program with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. It is truly unfortunate that the program could not continue again this year. Our Department and the people who utilize our public parks and wildlife areas have been very appreciative of the service projects provided by the teams.

Our Department is still very much interested in further coordination with AmeriCorps or other similar programs on any future service programs. If a procedure to submit projects is implemented, we would like to participate. Should any situation occur where our Department might be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Once again, thank you your past efforts and assistance.

Sincerely,

Alan Stark
Regional Park Supervisor

cc: Jerry Hover, Park Division Director
Rob Manes, Assistant Secretary of Operations



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Aura Kenny, Office of Congressman Quinn

From: Joel Berg, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

For your information, the attached memo formally went to our field offices today.

We will follow-up rapidly with the Corporation for National Service to determine ways that our former projects can apply on their own to continue next year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 720-5746.

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND

MISSOURI

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2503

October 23, 1996

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

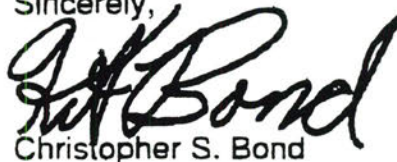
Dear Pat:

After reviewing your proposal to allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to use its own appropriated funds to support AmeriCorps projects, I fear that this approach is contrary to the objectives we have pursued to reform AmeriCorps to generate support of funding for AmeriCorps.

I understand your objective and agree the USDA AmeriCorps programs are beneficial and serve the community well. Be assured that when Congress convenes in January, I will work with Members to ascertain new ways of funding these programs.

I look forward to working with you during the 105th Congress. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Shawn Gilleylen of my staff at 4-5721.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond

11/18/96

FACT SHEET ON STATUS OF USDA AMERICORPS PROJECTS

Summary

In the previous two years, USDA has sponsored hundreds of AmeriCorps community development, environmental, and anti-hunger projects in over 40 states --- mostly in under-served rural areas.

A third year of the USDA AmeriCorps program was scheduled to have started on October 1, but all the projects have been placed on hold pending continued negotiation with key Congressional leaders with oversight over AmeriCorps.

Up to 1,000 people around the country --- who were either expecting to complete their second year of the program or hoping to start their first year of the program --- are waiting to determine how to proceed with their lives as negotiations continue. The hundreds of communities which were expecting to host projects are also in limbo, unable to determine whether the projects planned will still be accomplished.

USDA and the Corporation for National Service (CNS) are now seeking to reach a consensus with Senators Christopher Bond (MO) and Senator Charles Grassley (IA) to allow USDA to continue supporting AmeriCorps projects this year only, as those projects transition to a new arrangement in which they are no longer run by USDA.

If such a compromise is not reached immediately, all the projects planned for this year --- most of which are in under-served rural areas --- will be canceled.

USDA and CNS do NOT need any additional funds --- nor do they need Congress to take any formal legislative action. USDA and CNS simply need to reach an informal consensus with key members of Congress that would allow USDA to continue to aid AmeriCorps projects during one year of transition.

Changes in Funding for USDA AmeriCorps Projects

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

- 1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA* --- they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.
- 2) CNS funds were granted from CNS to USDA, which USDA, in turn, sub-granted to local AmeriCorps projects --- principally to five anti-hunger projects.
- 3) USDA utilized money from the Department's own appropriated funds. USDA used funds from several agencies to support AmeriCorps projects that provided critical community services in areas directly related to the mission areas of those agencies.
- 4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds. In the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided \$1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond, Senator Grassley, and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies.

The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding --- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

Why A Transition Period is Needed

In the future, AmeriCorps projects previously sponsored by USDA may be funded directly by the Corporation for National and Community Service and/or by governor-appointed state commissions of national and community service.

However, CNS and state commission funds have already been committed and application deadlines have already passed for this year. **Therefore, there is no legal, financial, or logistical way to continue the projects now on hold without some form of USDA funding and involvement during a one-year transition period.**

Current Legal Status of the Program

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, USDA still has the *legal* ability to use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Consequently, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue --- and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

Thus, new legislation and/or additional appropriations are NOT required to continue the USDA AmeriCorps program.

Agreement Sought By USDA

Even though both CNS and USDA have both the legal and financial ability to ensure that USDA can continue to support AmeriCorps projects, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* agreement with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so during a one-year transition period.

USDA and CNS are seeking at least tacit approval for such an agreement from Senator Bond and Senator Grassley.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

In a recent letter to Senator Leahy (VT) , Senator Bond expressed reservations about allowing USDA to continue to sponsor AmeriCorps projects. However, Senator Bond wrote that he did “agree the USDA AmeriCorps programs are beneficial and service the community well. Be assured that when Congress convenes in January, I will work with Members to ascertain new ways of funding these programs.”

Thus, there already is agreement between the Administration and Congress that new ways must be found to fund and manage such projects in the future. The only immediate issue at stake is whether such projects will be allowed to continue this year during the transition period or whether all such projects will be canceled immediately.

Office of
CONGRESSIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE:

8/5/96

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

TO:

Joel Berg

LOCATION:

FAX #:

720-4614

PHONE #:

FROM:

Gene Sifer

FAX #: (202) 565-2784

TELEPHONE #: (202) 606-5000, Ext.

COMMENTS:

For your comments

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

(3)

IF THERE IS ANY PROBLEM WITH THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CALL (202) 606-5000, Ext. 235

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

DRAFT

Senator Patrick J. Leahy
SR-443 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4502

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

Dear Senator Leahy,

As you know, for the past two years, several federal agencies have operated national service programs supported by operational funds transferred by the Corporation. Several months ago, the Corporation determined not to provide operational grants to federal agencies in the future. While AmeriCorps participants who successfully complete a term of service will be eligible for an education award from the National Service Trust, no Corporation funds will be transferred to federal agencies.

We have concluded that federal agencies retain statutory authority to administer national service programs even in the absence of an operational grant from the Corporation. The National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, provides as follows:

The Corporation may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with another Federal agency to support a national service program carried out by the agency. The support provided by the Corporation pursuant to the contract or cooperative agreement may include the transfer to the Federal agency of funds available to the Corporation under this division.

42 U.S.C. § 12571(b)(1). We interpret this provision as giving the Corporation authority to enter into agreements with federal agencies to support national service programs, with the understanding that such agreements need not include the transfer of funds.

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

Page 2

It is our view that the National and Community Service Act reflects Congressional intent to provide authority to federal agencies to operate national service programs -- regardless of whether operational funds are transferred from the Corporation to the federal agencies. The fact that the Corporation has now determined not to make direct grants to support the operation of national service programs carried out by federal agencies in no way affects the statutory authority of such agencies to carry out such programs pursuant to an agreement with the Corporation. It is my understanding that the Department of Agriculture has independently concluded that the NCSA authorizes its on-going operation of a national service program even in the absence of an operational grant.

Sincerely,

Harris Wofford
Chief Executive Officer



Plainview

COMMERCE
AND FINANCE
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
OPPORTUNITY
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1045 K STREET
LINCOLN, NE 68508
(402) 438-1598

502 N. BROAD ST.
FREMONT, NE 68025
(402) 727-0888

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 23, 1996

Mr. Stephen K. Chick
State Conservationist
USDA/NRCS
Federal Building, Room 152
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866

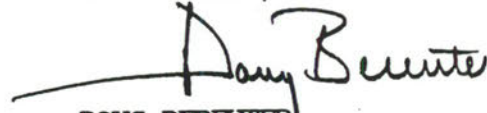
Dear Mr. Chick:

Thank you for your assistance in sending the Americorps/Team USDA to participate in the cleanup effort in Beatrice and the Homestead National Monument of America. Please convey my appreciation directly to the Americorps volunteers.

As you know, I visited Beatrice the weekend after the tornado struck and surveyed the extensive damage and the large amount of debris created by the storm. The participation of the volunteers from Americorps certainly made the difference in the cleanup process. The Americorps/Team USDA are to be commended for their work to remove debris from the Homestead National Monument and from Pioneer Acres. Their flexibility and quick response to the overwhelming need in Beatrice is an example of the good that Americorps was created to do.

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter.

Best wishes,


DOUG BEREUTER
Member of Congress

DB/js

29 MAY 1996

MAY 28 1996



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Eric Falls, Office of Senator Robb

From: Joel Berg, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

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Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

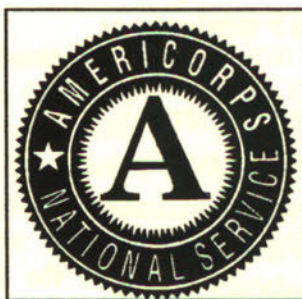
This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

U.S.D.A.-AMERICORPS

AMERICORPS NEWS FROM TENNESSEE

3RD QUARTER



Inside This Issue

THERE ARE 15 U.S.D.A.
AMERICORPS
MEMBERS IN THE
STATE OF TENNESSEE.

EACH MEMBER HAS
SUBMITTED AN ARTICLE
ON THEIR WORK AND
PROJECTS IN
AMERICORPS.



FYI
- Jan

USDA/AmeriCorps

Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, KS 67401-4642
(913) 823-4500
FAX (913) 823-4540

Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program -

Date: May 9, 1996

To: Paula Cole Jones, AmeriCorps Program Manager,
PRG-CAR, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

File Code: 360-5

The enclosed information was requested from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to document their partnership role in our Parks and Wildlife Restoration AmeriCorps Teams. The information enclosed represents only the first six months of the current AmeriCorps term. We believe the total commitment by our partner will be over \$100,000 for the full term. This information has not previously been reflected in our rationale for requesting renewal of these teams, but we feel it is important enough to forward along to you.

Please contact us if we can provide additional information.


James N. Habiger **ACTING FOR**
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc:

Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs (Communications), Washington,
D.C. (w/enclosure)

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Regional Conservationist, Northern Plains Region, NRCS,
Lincoln, NE (w/enclosure)

Larry D. Miles, Kansas USDA/AmeriCorps Project Director, NRCS, Salina, KS

Delbert E. Prophet, ASTC (Programs), NRCS, Salina, KS (w/enclosure)

Alan Stark, Regional Supervisor, KDWP, Valley Center, KS

STATE OF KANSAS



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Larry Miles
USDA/AmeriCorps
Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, KS 67401-4642

Dear Larry:

As you have requested I have tried to develop an estimate of the amount of support the Kansas Wildlife and Parks has provided for the five AmeriCorps Teams since October. I have tried to use actual numbers, but, when they were not readily available in some cases, conservative estimates have been used to compile a report for each item.

Items that were included as support are: vehicle mileage costs, vehicle rental costs, vehicle repairs (this included only items that were not routine and would not have been done except for AmeriCorps presence), safety equipment purchased, special equipment purchased, equipment rental, new equipment donated, and supervision costs. For supervision costs it was estimated that an average of 2 hours per day either in direct, or indirect, supervision was given to the team by one KDWP employee.

Each teams reports are attached, but the total estimates for a 6 month period for October through March are:

Perry Team	\$ 9,724.53
Milford Team	\$16,016.00
Glen Elder Team	\$ 6,940.00
Kanopolis Team	\$10,751.73
Cheney Team	\$10,639.07
State & Region wide Coord. and supervision efforts	<u>\$ 950.00</u>

Total	\$54,071.33
-------	-------------

As I have said before, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is very appreciative of AmeriCorps and all the diverse services they have performed. I hope the above totals reflect that with limited resources (vehicles, equipment, materials, etc.) we have made an effort to support these teams efforts in whatever manner we could.

If this information is not sufficient or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Stark".

Alan Stark
Regional Supervisor

cc: Jim Meisenheimer, AmeriCorps
Jerry Hover, Division Director
Joe Kramer, Division Director
John bond, Regional Supervisor
Ben Streeter, Regional Supervisor
Ron Little, Regional Supervisor
Dave White, Regional Supervisor
Robert Barbee, Specialist

PERRY AMERICORPS INFORMATION

Perry Americorps information October 1995 - March 1996

Vehicle costs	Vehicle #	Oct. '95	Nov. '95	Dec. '95	Jan. '96	Feb. '96	March '96
	3451	\$62.06	\$24.94	\$19.35	\$268.25	\$56.55	\$159.50
	6454	\$57.42	\$92.51	\$15.47	\$93.96	\$67.28	\$368.82
	4836	\$36.68	\$98.14		\$23.24	\$6.02	\$58.87
	5786						\$191.11
	677		\$8.76				\$362.56
	573		\$15.00	\$20.00			\$35.00
	543						\$25.00
Totals		\$156.16	\$239.35	\$54.82	\$385.45	\$129.85	\$1,200.86

Vehicle Costs \$2,166.49

Vehicle Repairs

6454 \$1,133.00
3451 \$200.00

Total Vehicle Costs \$3,499.49

Misc. Safety Items Purchased

Chaps, Gloves, Ear plugs,
Safety vests & hats, etc. = \$163.40

Misc. Equipment Repair

Service and repair on chain saws = \$698.35

Cost of Supervision	Oct. '95	Nov. '95	Dec. '95	Jan. '96	Feb. '96	March '96
# of Days Worked	22 days	17 days	17 days	20 days	22 days	22 days
Average 2hrs/day	44 hrs	34 hrs	34 hrs	40 hrs	44 hrs	44 hrs
Avg. Salary \$13.32/hr	\$586.08	\$452.88	\$452.88	\$532.80	\$586.08	\$586.08

Grand Total for Supervision \$3,196.80

GRAND TOTAL = \$9,724.53

MILFORD AMERICORP INFORMATION
OCTOBER 1995 - MARCH 1996

Vehicle Costs:

<u>Vehicle Number</u>	<u>Cost</u>
6146	\$437.80
3817	\$437.80
6656	\$437.80
8849	\$437.80
6535	\$437.80
508AG	\$168.00
528AG	\$411.60
Total Cost	\$2768.60

Vehicle Rental Costs:

Duetz Tractor	\$1425.00
---------------	-----------

Vehicle Repairs:

<u>Vehicle Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cost</u>
8849	Clutch	\$1,100.00
6535	Transmission	\$1,400.00
508AG	Loader & fuel tank	\$ 800.00
Total Cost		\$3,300.00

<u>Safety Items Purchased:</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Chainsaw Chaps	\$105.00
Safety Goggles	\$ 5.00
Gloves	\$ 75.00
Total	\$185.00

<u>Equipment Purchase and Repairs:</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Purchase of 2 chainsaws	\$884.00
Chainsaw supplies	\$989.15
Chainsaw repairs	\$500.00
ATV Rental	\$300.00
Misc. Items	\$714.25
Total	\$3,387.40

Supervision Costs:

330 hours at \$15 per hour = \$4,950.00

GRAND TOTAL COST = \$16,016.00

KANOPOLIS AMERICORPS INFORMATION

Americorps Information October 1995- April 1996

	Vehicle #	Oct. '95	Nov. '95	Dec. '95	Jan. '96	Feb. '96	March '96	April '96
Vehicle costs	8829	\$160.00	\$365.00	\$133.75	\$301.00	\$242.50	\$48.75	\$334.38
(mileage x.25)	8533	\$74.76	\$58.75	\$87.25	\$143.00	\$191.75	\$376.00	
	8934	\$19.25						\$361.75
	3839	\$6.25				\$30.70		
	6432							\$73.25
	1530							\$56.50
	4847							\$56.25
	4977							\$225.00
	8539						\$54.00	\$109.25
Totals		\$260.26	\$423.75	\$221.00	\$444.00	\$464.95	\$478.75	\$1,216.38

Grand Total all vehicle costs

\$3,509.09

Misc. Items

tow strap	\$40.00
Orange vests	\$30.00
gloves	\$65.00
goggles	\$12.00
Equipment repairs (trailer and truck work)	\$1,550.00
towing	\$101.00
lights 4977	\$10.08
misc repairs (trailer tires and flat repair)	\$200.00
Total	\$1,808.08

	Oct. '95	Nov. '95	Dec. '95	Jan. '96	Feb. '96	March '96	April '96
Cost of Supervision	22 days	17 days	17 days	22 days	22 days	16 days	20 days
# of Days Worked	66hrs	51 hrs	51 hrs	66 hrs	66 hrs	48 hrs	60 hrs
Average 3 hrs/day	\$879.12	\$679.32	\$679.32	\$879.12	\$879.12	\$639.36	\$799.20
Avg. Salary \$13.32/hr							

\$5,434.56

Grand Total for Supervision

AMERICORP INFORMATION SEPTEMBER 1995 - MARCH 1996

CHENEY STATE PARK

Vehicle Costs:

<u>Veh. #</u>	<u>Oct/95</u>	<u>Nov/95</u>	<u>Dec/95</u>	<u>Jan/96</u>	<u>Feb/96</u>	<u>Mar/96</u>
#5018	\$ 13.51	\$ 44.20	\$ 23.59	\$ 43.97	\$ 90.45	\$151.37
#5202	8.59	24.82	13.18	28.99	43.78	20.32
#3939	2.06	15.57				
#3754	13.74	3.66		24.96	132.82	107.17
#8538	8.51					
#7577	63.18		47.03	45.63	44.93	70.20
#7533		2.57	15.44	.47	27.38	
#2682					13.89	
#0640					58.89	9.06
#0657					27.18	9.06
#1534						42.59
Totals:	<u>\$109.59</u>	<u>\$90.82</u>	<u>\$99.24</u>	<u>\$144.02</u>	<u>\$439.32</u>	<u>\$409.77</u>

Grand Total: \$1292.76

Misc. Safety Items Purchased:

Goggles	\$ 10.00
Chain Saw Chaps	\$111.90
Total:	<u>\$121.90</u>

Cost of Supervision:

	Sept/95	Oct/95	Nov/95	Dec/95	Jan/95	Feb/95	March/95
*Total Hours:	9	87	57	40	57	76	77
*Total Costs:	\$ 174.78	\$1222.74	\$ 659.99	\$ 391.15	\$ 619.79	\$ 887.27	\$ 906.69
Grand Total:	\$4,862.41						

*Total hours include all Managers, GMRT II, GMRT I, and Office Assistant hours.
Each person/classification's salary was multiplied by the hours worked.
A total of 403 hours divided by \$4,862.41 = \$12.06/hr.

Grand Total of All Costs: \$6277.07

Cheney Wildlife Area

Supervision (40 days at 2 hours or more per day)	\$1,400
Vehicle Mileage Costs	\$1,300
Equipment & Vehicle Repairs (Percentage of actual costs)	\$ 500
Equipment Obtained	
Chainsaw (used)	\$ 87
Miscellaneous	\$ 75
New Equipment Donated	<u>\$1,000</u>
Total	\$4,362

Glen Elder Team

Supervision (direct or indirect)	\$2,890
Mileage Costs	\$2,550
Equipment Repair	<u>\$1,500</u>
Total	\$6,940

CITY OF
VICTORVILLE



619-955-5000
FAX 619-245-7243

14343 Civic Drive
P.O. Box 5001
Victorville, California 92393-5001

February 8, 1996

Rick Aguayo
National Resource Conservation Service
18484 Highway 18
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Dear Mr. Aguayo:

I would like to thank you for your assistance in providing the soils constraints map via the Americorps program. The efforts of your Americorps staff, particularly Mr. Pellerin and Mr. Faulkner, are greatly appreciated. This map will be reproduced, divided into a set format of General Plan planning areas and placed within the Resources element of the City's General Plan. The information will be used by staff during project review and will be available to developers and the general public.

I am interested in meeting with you to discuss additional projects which I believe will qualify for Americorps assistance if the program is still available. Again, I thank you for the service provided to our department and ultimately to the community of Victorville.

Very truly yours,

JOHN R. HNATEK
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

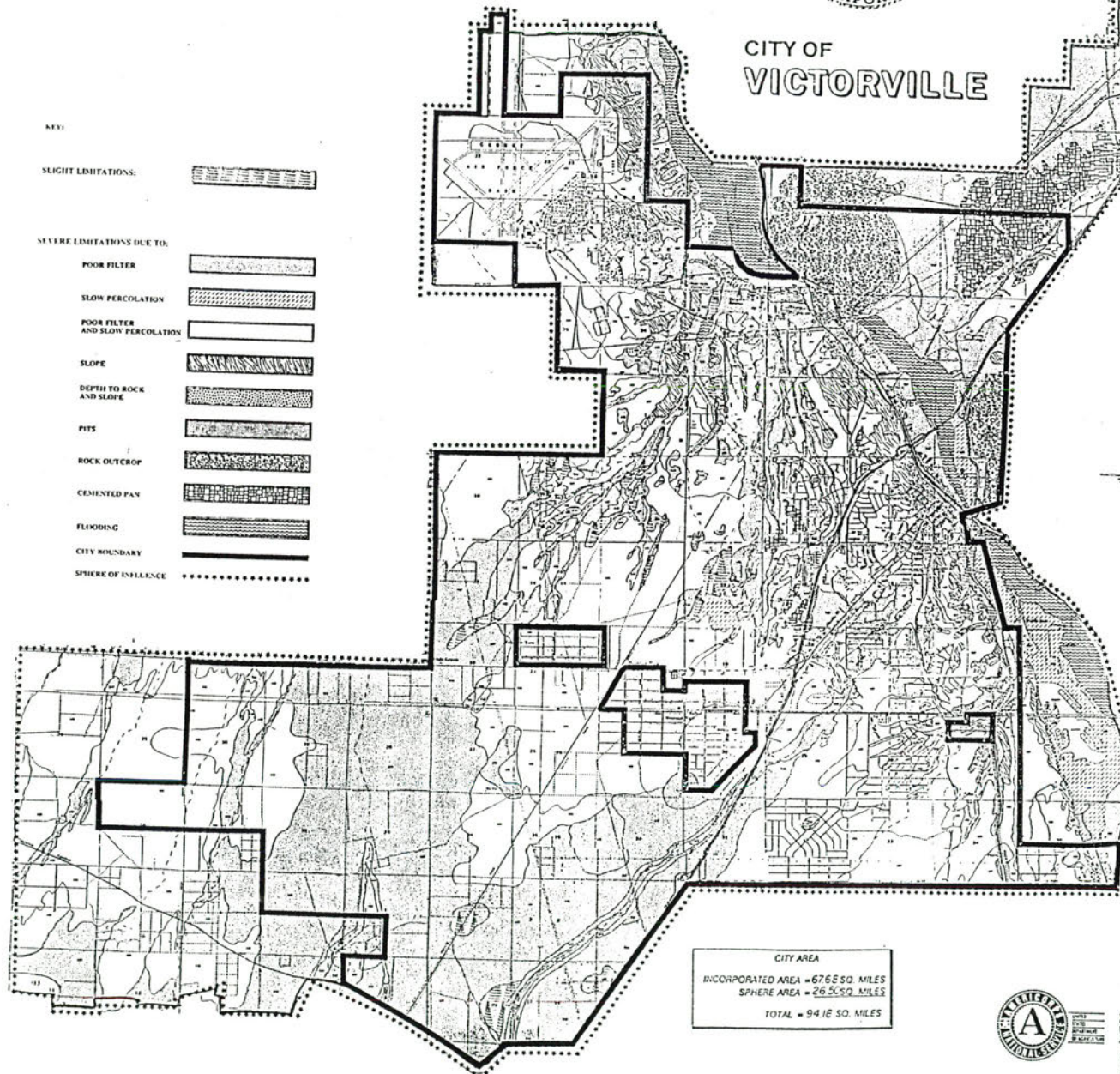
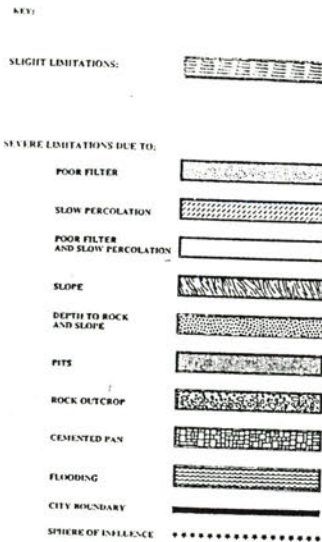
Tim Whitright
Assistant Planner

TW:sr

SOIL LIMITATIONS FOR SEPTIC TANK ABSORPTION FIELDS



CITY OF
VICTORVILLE



CITY AREA
INCORPORATED AREA = 67.65 SQ. MILES
SPHERE AREA = 26.50 SQ. MILES
TOTAL = 94.15 SQ. MILES



Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA/American
Apple Valley, CA
Soil Survey of
San Bernardino County, California
Mojave River Area
American Team
David H. Frazier
Patty H. Frazier
1978

"Reduced Map"



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Robin Bowen

Mc Connel

From: Joel Berg

JR

9 PAGES, INCLUDING THIS COVER

Per our discussion this morning, attached is a one page memo from myself to the staff of Senator Bond about our overall AmeriCorps issue ---- and a seven page letter from Secretary Glickman to Senator Gorton requesting a reprogramming for the Forest Service AmeriCorps program (this reprogramming is needed to start our program in Kentucky on the Daniel Boone National Forest)

If you have any questions, please contact me at 720-5746

USDA AmeriCorps Projects in Maryland

In the last two years, USDA has sponsored highly successful AmeriCorps projects in rural, suburban and urban Maryland.

USDA is currently attempting to work out an understanding between the Corporation for National Service (CNS) and the leadership of the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies so that --- even after USDA no longer receives operating grants for AmeriCorps from the Corporation for National Service --- USDA continues to have the ability to use the Department's own appropriated funds to support AmeriCorps projects in which the AmeriCorps Members receive "educational awards only" from CNS.

The delay in working out this deal is seriously hampering the ability of USDA to finalize our projects for next year in Maryland and the rest of the nation. The Department is now at least six month behind our normal time line for our AmeriCorps projects in Maryland to recruit Members, finalize service objectives, sign cooperative agreements with partner organizations, etc. It is urgent for this issue to be resolved rapidly.

USDA Projects in Maryland Last Year (1984-1985) Program Year

On the Eastern Shore, AmeriCorps Members completed projects that improved wildlife habitat; collected soil samples and scouted for pests on area farms; planted marsh grass to prevent soil erosion; built fences and cleared trails in state parks; and inventoried fish habitats.

Members based in Beltsville and the District of Columbia improved seven different public parks by constructing and installing bluebird boxes in Kenilworth Park, planting 250 trees and seedlings in Anacostia Park, constructing a boardwalk in Greenbelt Park, installing 280 trees and 900 plants in Little Bennett Regional Park, improving 200 feet of streambank at Sligo Creek Park, and cleaning up 20 acres in Fort Lincoln Park by removing 15 bags of trash and a truckload of branches.

June 7, 1996

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman, Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, HUD, and Independent Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-143 Capitol Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. *Jerry* Chairman;

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, HUD, and Independent Agencies, on May 2. I appreciate your continued support for national service and look forward to working closely with you to keep national service on a firm, non-partisan basis.

As I indicated in my testimony, the Corporation will no longer award grants to federal agencies to support AmeriCorps programs. However, I am currently exploring one approach to ensuring the availability of programs to respond to the needs of underserved areas.

The Department of Agriculture currently supports a number of very effective service programs in more than 40 states, using funds already appropriated to it. Many of these programs have been designated as AmeriCorps programs, even though the Corporation contributes only minimal support to them. In many places, particularly rural areas and national forest land, these programs represent the only AmeriCorps presence. It would be extremely helpful to the Corporation if the USDA is able to use funds from its current appropriations to support AmeriCorps projects designed to meet important needs of these areas. To be clear, the Corporation would ensure that none of our funds are used to supplement USDA efforts, though AmeriCorps Members successfully completing such projects will still be eligible to receive the educational benefit directly from the National Service Trust Fund.

We are developing our strategy to expand the "Education Award Only" component of AmeriCorps to expand the number of service opportunities and hold down our costs. Being able to offer education awards to young people serving in USDA projects would certainly help them recruit the highest quality participants.

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

-2-

I would be grateful for your thoughts as we begin to develop and implement this strategy. Again, I appreciated the opportunity to appear before your Subcommittee, and look forward to working with you to strengthen AmeriCorps and ensure that the Corporation for National Service is capably carrying out its mission.

Sincerely,



Harris Wofford
Chief Executive Officer



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: David Bowers

From: Joel Berg

6 pages, including this cover

Per your request, 2 pages of info on our Maryland projects and three pages of talking points on our program nationally

Ongoing USDA Projects in Maryland This (1985-1986) Program Year

In just the first few months of service, 15 USDA AmeriCorps Members based in Beltsville, Centreville (Eastern Shore) and Waldorf (Southern Maryland):

- * Recruited 305 volunteers to help renovate two public parks and recreation centers and perform other environmental tasks
- * Reduced erosion and flood risks on 800 linear feet of stream
- * Improved 2 outdoor environmental education facilities
- * Provided conservation education and recycling presentations to 3,100 students and 2,000 adults
- * Grew 3,000 plants for later conservation projects
- * Protected 150 feet of shoreline
- * Constructed 24 wooden boxes to improve duck habitat and 60 boxes for nesting birds
- * Contacted all 24 South Maryland and all 100 Eastern Shore volunteer fire departments to provide technical assistance to help reduce fire risks and lower insurance rates
- * Planted 350 trees and 500 feet of willows
- * Tested the quality of 48 private water sources
- * Constructed 600 oyster shell bags

USDA ("Summer of Gleaning") Project Now Starting in Maryland

As part of Secretary Glickman's personal initiative to increase the nation's commitment to recovering excess food for delivery to hungry citizens, four new USDA AmeriCorps Members in the Baltimore area will work --- in partnership with the youth corps Civic Works --- to collect excess fruits and vegetables from areas farmers and distribute that food to needy families.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Ciara Torres

From: Joel Berg

12 PAGES, including this cover

Per our discussion, attached is information on two keys issues facing the USDA AmeriCorps program:

1) Forest Service AmeriCorps projects -- Attached is a 6 page letter from Secretary Glickman to Senator Gorton (copy went to Congressman Regula) requesting FY96 reprogramming for the Forest Service program. Also attached is the negative, two page, response from Regula. Similar language prohibiting a Forest Service AmeriCorps program is now included in the FY 97 Interior Appropriations Bill, whcih is scheduled to be marked-up by the full committee tomorrow.

2) Overall USDA AmeriCorps program -- Attached is a one page memo from myself to the Office of Senator Bond requesting their tacit approval of an arrangement in which USDA would no longer receiving operating funds from the Corporation for National Service, but USDA would continue to use the Department's own funds to sposnor projects in which AmeriCorps Members would only have their educational award funded by the Corporation for National Service. Also attached are two pages of talking points explaining the merits of the USDA AmeriCorps program.

If you have any questions, call me at (202) 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Sherry Kaiman

From: Joel Berg

12 PAGES, including this cover

Per our discussion, attached is information on two keys issues facing the USDA AmeriCorps program:

1) Forest Service AmeriCorps projects -- Attached is a 6 page letter from Secretary Glickman to Senator Gorton (copy went to Congressman Regula) requesting FY96 reprogramming for the Forest Service program. Also attached is the negative, two page, response from Regula. Similar language prohibiting a Forest Service AmeriCorps program is now included in the FY 97 Interior Appropriations Bill, which is scheduled to be marked-up by the full committee tomorrow.

2) Overall USDA AmeriCorps program -- Attached is a one page memo from myself to the Office of Senator Bond requesting their tacit approval of an arrangement in which USDA would no longer receiving operating funds from the Corporation for National Service, but USDA would continue to use the Department's own funds to sponsor projects in which AmeriCorps Members would only have their educational award funded by the Corporation for National Service. Also attached are two pages of talking points explaining the merits of the USDA AmeriCorps program.

If you have any questions, call me at (202) 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Ben Rose, Office of Congressman Quillen

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

5 pages, including this cover

As you may know, USDA has sponsored an extremely successful AmeriCorps conservation education project based in Johnson City.

However, as explained in the attached fact sheet, all USDA AmeriCorps projects --- including those in Tennessee --- are in immediate jeopardy unless we can reach a compromise with Senators Grassley and Bond and Congressman Jerry Lewis to allow USDA to continue to provide assistance to local AmeriCorps projects.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Rem Dickinson, Office of Senator Warner

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

7 pages, including this cover

USDA has sponsored highly successful AmeriCorps environmental and community development projects in the under-served rural areas of Tappahannock and Wytheville. (See attached print outs). In response to Hurricane Fran, USDA has just started AmeriCorps stream restoration projects in the Culpeper, Richmond, and Verona areas.

Ironically, even as Congress has reached bi-partisan agreement on continuing to fund the overall AmeriCorps program, our highly successful program faces elimination. As explained in the attached fact sheet, all USDA AmeriCorps projects --- including all those in Virginia --- may be terminated immediately unless we can reach a compromise with Senators Grassley and Bond to allow USDA to continue to provide assistance to local AmeriCorps projects.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Tony DeVault, Office of Senator Thompson

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

8 pages, including this cover

As you may recall, I met you briefly last year during a site visit in Tennessee. I am glad to report, as demonstrated by the attached data sheets, that USDA AmeriCorps projects in Tennessee are even more successful this year.

Ironically, even as Congress has reached bi-partisan agreement on continuing to fund the overall AmeriCorps program, our highly successful program --- which provides service in rural areas that otherwise might not benefit from AmeriCorps --- faces elimination. As explained in the attached fact sheet, all USDA AmeriCorps projects --- including those in Tennessee --- may be canceled immediately unless we can reach a compromise with Senators Grassley and Bond to allow USDA to continue to provide assistance to local AmeriCorps projects.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Alfred Bundrick, Office of Senator Thurmond

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

7 pages, including this cover

For your information, attached is information about the impressive achievements of the USDA AmeriCorps fire protection project in South Carolina that has both protected property and saved homeowners money.

Also attached is a fact sheet about the current status of the USDA AmeriCorps program. If action on this matter is not taken immediately, all USDA AmeriCorps projects --- including all those in South Carolina --- may be canceled.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.

FACT SHEET ON STATUS OF USDA AMERICORPS PROJECTS

Summary

USDA and the Corporation for National Service (CNS) are now seeking to reach a consensus with Senators Christopher Bond (MO), Senator Charles Grassley (IA), and Congressman Jerry Lewis (CA) to allow USDA to continue to provide technical assistance, funding, administrative support services, and other assistance to national service programs sponsored by non-profit organizations, state, local, and tribal governments, and the local managers of public lands.

USDA and CNS do NOT need any additional funds --- nor do they need Congress to take any formal legislative action. USDA and CNS simply need to reach an informal consensus with key members of Congress that would allow USDA to continue to aid grass-roots groups sponsoring AmeriCorps projects.

Changes in Funding for USDA AmeriCorps Projects

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

- 1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA --- they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.*
- 2) CNS funds were granted from CNS to USDA, which USDA, in turn, sub-granted to local AmeriCorps projects --- principally to five anti-hunger projects.
- 3) USDA utilized money from the Department's own appropriated funds. USDA used funds from several agencies to support AmeriCorps projects that provided critical community services in areas directly related to the mission areas of those agencies.

4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds. In the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided \$1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

However, in order to meet concerns raised by Senator Bond, Senator Grassley, and others, CNS will no longer make grants of *operating* funds to Federal agencies.

The legal result of this policy is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding --- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

Why USDA Needs to Have Some Continuing Involvement in Projects

Some have suggested that full responsibility for funding and managing all USDA AmeriCorps projects to be transferred to state commissions on national service. Yet most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own. In addition, most state commissions do not have the ability to effectively place projects in many of the rural areas served by USDA AmeriCorps projects.

While most state commissions strongly support the USDA AmeriCorps projects in their state, they do NOT want to take them over. In reality, transferring these projects to state commissions would be, in effect, an unfunded mandate placed on the states.

If USDA was prohibited from continuing to provide any assistance at all, most rural AmeriCorps projects would immediately end.

Current Legal Status of the Program

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, USDA still has the *legal* ability to use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Consequently, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue --- and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

Thus, new legislation and/or additional appropriations are NOT required to continue the USDA AmeriCorps program.

Agreement Sought Sought By USDA

Even though both CNS and USDA have both the legal and financial ability to ensure that USDA can continue to support AmeriCorps projects, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* agreement with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so.

USDA and CNS are seeking at least tacit approval for such an agreement from Senator Bond, Senator Grassley, and Congressman Lewis.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Both Bond and Grassley have expressed their belief that, while they might like high quality USDA projects in partnership with local entities to continue, they not believe the Federal government should “run” such projects.

Thus, USDA has proposed the language below under which USDA would NOT run projects, but would continue help local entities to run projects.

Approval of this concept would be perfectly in keeping with previous agreements between CNS, Bond, Grassley, and Lewis which ended grants of operating funds from CNS to Federal agencies.

Thus, for AmeriCorps projects supported by USDA to continue, Bond, Grassley, and Lewis would need to agree to agree to the following concept:

“The Corporation for National and Community Service would have the authority to enter into a *non-monetary* cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture to allow the Department to provide technical assistance, funding, administrative support services, and other assistance to national service programs sponsored by non-profit organizations, state, local, and tribal governments, and the local managers of public lands, and to allow participants in those programs to receive National Service benefits, including National Service educational awards from the National Service Trust. It is understood that the Corporation for National Service would *not* seek to enter into such an agreement with any other Federal agency other than the Department of Agriculture. “



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Eddy Moore, Office of Senator Hollings

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

7 pages, including this cover

For your information, attached is information about the impressive achievements of the USDA AmeriCorps fire protection project in South Carolina that has both protected property and saved homeowners money.

Also attached is a fact sheet about the current status of the USDA AmeriCorps program. If action on this matter is not taken immediately, all USDA AmeriCorps projects may be canceled.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Barbara Riehle, Office of Senator Chafee

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA j r

6 pages, including this cover

As you may be aware, USDA sponsored a highly successful AmeriCorps project in Rhode Island this summer focused on recovering excess food that normally would be disgarded and distributing that food to citizens in need.

Ironically, even as Congress has reached bi-partisan agreement on continuing to fund the overall AmeriCorps program, our highly successful program faces elimination. As explained in the attached fact sheet, all USDA AmeriCorps projects --- including any possible future projects in Rhode Island --- may be eliminated immediately unless we can reach a compromise with Senators Grassley and Bond to allow USDA to continue to provide assistance to local AmeriCorps projects.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Martha Peterson, Office of Congressman Taylor

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

7 pages, including this cover

As we have previously discussed, USDA has sponsored extremely successful AmeriCorps projects in your district. (See attached print-out)

Ironically, even as Congress has reached bi-partisan agreement to continue the overall AmeriCorps program, all USDA AmeriCorps projects are in immediate jeopardy unless we can reach a compromise with Senators Grassley and Bond to allow USDA to continue to provide assistance to local AmeriCorps projects. (See attached fact sheet.)

In addition, in order for our new Forest Service projects to start in your district, the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will have to approve Secretary Glickman's upcoming reprogramming request. Please call me at 202-720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**To: David Reimhart,
Office of Congressman Bunn**

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

5 pages, including this cover

As you may know, USDA sponsored a highly successful AmeriCorps project this summer in your district focused on recovering excess food that normally would be discarded and distributing that food to citizens in need. We hope to be able to continue to support such projects in the future.

Ironically, even as Congress has reached bi-partisan agreement on continuing to fund the overall AmeriCorps program, our highly successful program faces elimination. As explained in the attached fact sheet, all USDA AmeriCorps projects may be eliminated immediately unless we can reach a compromise with Senators Grassley and Bond to allow USDA to continue to provide assistance to local AmeriCorps projects.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Kevin Koonce, Office of Senator Helms

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

For your information, attached is a press release we just issued on our AmeriCorps disaster relief project in North Carolina.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Colin Moore, Office of Senator Faircloth

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

Per our discussion, attached is a press release we just issued on our AmeriCorps disaster relief project in North Carolina.

Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.

USDA AMERICORPS

UPDATE -- UPDATE --- UPDATE --- UPDATE --- UPDATE

To: Carole McGuire, Office of Senator Domenici

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

3 PAGES, INCLUDING THIS COVER

I just received a call from Joe Trujillo of your staff about our AmeriCorps projects in New Mexico and he asked me to follow-up with you. I have been previously dealing with Brian Jones of your office.

USDA has excellent AmeriCorps sites in Albuquerque, Aztec, Bernilillo, Clovis, Demming, Grants, Las Cruces, and Taos. AmeriCorps Members from these sites also recently engaged in critical disaster relief work in Llama and Questa.

In order to continue these projects, we need for Senator Bond, Chair of the appropriations subcommittee over AmeriCorps, to give at least tacit approval to allow USDA to continue to support AmeriCorps projects. (See attached documents I sent to Shawn Gilleylen of Bond's office).

Given the current sensitivity of this matter, I think member to member discussions and/or staff-to-staff discussions might be more useful at this point than a formal letter. Please call me at 720-5746.

To: Shawn Gilleylen, Office of Senator Bond

From: Joel Berg, USDA

It was good to actually meet you face-to-face in the meeting on Friday. Now that your conference committee has successfully completed its national service work, we are hopeful we can come to a mutually agreeable resolution about our AmeriCorps program.

We appreciated the Senator's praise in the meeting for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (the former Soil Conservation Service) and his desire to try to find some mechanism through which it could continue to provide assistance to AmeriCorps projects. It was my understanding of the Senator's position that, while he would like high quality USDA projects in partnership with local entities to continue, he does not believe the Federal government should "run" such projects.

In keeping with Senator Bond's direction, attached is draft language explaining how locally-based individual projects could continue to receive technical and other assistance from USDA .

While we don't need any additional funds --- nor do we formally need any additional authorization or appropriations language --- we do seek to reach agreement with your office that USDA --- and USDA alone --- can go forward under the attached proposal. I believe that Rep. Jerry Lewis, Senator Bond's counterpart in the House, would probably support such a compromise. Please call me at 720-5746 with any questions.

DRAFT PROPOSAL TO ALLOW USDA TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AMERICORPS PROJECTS

The Corporation for National and Community Service would have the authority to enter into a *non-monetary* cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture to allow the Department to provide technical assistance, funding, administrative support services, and other assistance to national service programs sponsored by non-profit organizations, state, local, and tribal governments, and the local managers of public lands, and to allow participants in those programs to receive National Service benefits, including National Service educational awards from the National Service Trust.

It is understood that the Corporation for National Service would *not* seek to enter into such an agreement with any other Federal agency other than the Department of Agriculture.