

FOIA MARKER

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

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Americorps
Series/Staff Member: General Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 24235
FolderID:

Folder Title:
USDA [Department of Agriculture]/Americorps - Forest Service 2 [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	66	1	7	3



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

THROUGH: James R. Lyons
Under Secretary, NRE

FROM: Jack Ward Thomas
Chief

MLK OCT 18 1995

SUBJECT: Reprogramming for the AmeriCorps National Service Program

ISSUE:

The Forest Service (FS) is proposing to reprogram \$8.9 million National Forest System (NFS) and related funds and \$0.5 million State and Private Forestry (S&PF) funds to carry out the AmeriCorps National Service program in fiscal year (FY) 1996.

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with section 312, as adopted by the conferees on the FY 1996 Interior appropriations bill (H.R. 1977), with respect to reprogramming procedures for the AmeriCorps program, the FS is intending to reprogram \$9.4 million from various NFS, and related funds and S&PF funds to carry out authorized work projects through the AmeriCorps national service program in FY 1996.

Section 312, as adopted by the Interior Conference Committee, prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps programs unless the relevant agency follows "appropriate reprogramming guidelines." Further, section 312 prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps programs "if no funds are provided for the AmeriCorps program by the Department of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD), and Independent Agencies' FY 1996 appropriations bill."

It should be noted that both the House and the Senate Appropriations Committees expressed great concern in their reports on the FY 1996 Interior Appropriations Bill with the FS's failure to follow reprogramming guidelines in regard to the FY 1995 AmeriCorps program. The Committees were very disturbed to learn that the FS had reprogrammed substantial amounts of money to initiate an AmeriCorps program without advance notification of the Committees, thus circumventing the role of Congress to oversee and approve funding of the executive branch. The managers of the conference also expressed their concern with the reallocation of funds before the reprogramming request is transmitted to Congress and directed that the FS not reallocate funds until the Appropriations Committees have had an opportunity to review the proposal.



AmeriCorps is authorized by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (Pub. L. No. 103-82). The Act further establishes a "Public Lands Corps" in the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior. The FS ran a Public Lands Corps in FY 1995 through which 297 AmeriCorps members on National Forest land in eight states performed rehabilitation and watershed protection work, reforested fire-damaged lands, constructed and maintained trails for hiking and horseback riding, planted cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations, maintained and rehabilitated campgrounds, made campgrounds accessible for people with disabilities, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.

The FS also ran a Rural Development Team in FY 1995 through which 86 AmeriCorps members in 16 states worked on projects related to areas such as running water and indoor plumbing, emergency response and prevention, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, tourism promotion, water quality protection, recycling promotion, cultural resource preservation, and relocation of residents of flood plains.

FS AmeriCorps members are getting things done and providing vital services, while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and encouraging personal responsibility.

Under current law, Federal agencies may receive limited grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) which is funded by the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1995, although much of the CNCS appropriations is available not for FY 1995, but for the period September 1, 1995, through August 31, 1996. The final size of the appropriations for CNCS in the FY 1995 appropriations act was determined when the President signed the rescissions bill, Pub. L. No. 104-19. Thus, CNCS has determined that it does indeed have enough funding from the FY 1995 appropriations act to provide a grant to the Forest Service to match the FS's FY 1996 funding of AmeriCorps.

The FS is planning a \$9.4 million AmeriCorps program for FY 1996 that provides for enrolling 470 members in 23 states. This would include 434 members in the Public Lands Corps through the NFS program and 36 members in the Rural Development Team through the S&PF program.

The FS 1996 AmeriCorps program consists of two parts. First, is a \$8.9 million program to be funded with NFS and related funds. While additional funding was not provided in FY 1995 and is not expected in 1996, the FS will redirect work to the AmeriCorps program which would have been accomplished by other means. Second, is a \$500,000 Rural Development Team program to be funded with S&PF funds. (See enclosure for detailed source of funds.)

The FS is using AmeriCorps as a delivery mechanism to perform work. Since AmeriCorps members perform far more work per dollar than the same work performed through routine means, the FS is able to complete a greater volume of work. After the first 6 months of operation, AmeriCorps members performed at least \$1.51 worth of service for each \$1 spent on the program.

By increasing funding from non-FS partners, reducing overhead costs, and transferring AmeriCorps slots to the project type in which members earn a lower living stipend, a 1996 Forest Service AmeriCorps program can fund more AmeriCorps members for the same level of spending.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve and forward the reprogramming proposal as submitted.
2. Modify or adjust the reprogramming proposal and submit accordingly.
3. Disapprove the reprogramming proposal in total.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1 is recommended.

DECISION BY THE SECRETARY:

Approve _____ Date _____

Disapprove _____

Discuss with me _____

Enclosures

Reviewed by: _____

FY 1996 FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

The following reprogramming of FY 1996 Forest Service funds to the AmeriCorps program is requested:

Thousands \$

National Forest System and Related Funds:

Recreation Management (NFRM)	4,076
Wilderness Management (NFWM)	419
Wildlife Habitat Management (NFWL)	784
Inland Fish Habitat Management (NFIF)	273
Anadromous Fish Habitat Management (NFAF)	387
Threatened and Endangered Sensitive Species Habitat Management (NFTE)	663
Grazing Management (NFRG)	41
Rangeland Vegetation Management (NFRV)	65
Forestland Vegetation Management (NFFV)	712
Watershed Improvement (NFSI)	71
Land Line Location (NFLL)	24
Road Maintenance (NFRD)	63
Forest Trail Construction (CNTR)	583
Brush Disposal (BDBD)	129
Cooperative Work (CWKV)	<u>604</u>
Subtotal	\$ 8,894

Rural Development Team Program:

Economic Action (SPEP)	<u>500</u>
------------------------	------------

Total, AmeriCorps Program	\$ 9,394
---------------------------	----------

Under the FY 1996 reprogramming for AmeriCorps, trail construction funds would still be used only to build trails; fish habitat management funds would only be used to manage fish habitat; recreation management funds only be used on recreation projects; watershed improvement funds would only be used on watershed work; etc. The only change would be that AmeriCorps members would perform the work rather than using other methods or allowing for a work backlog.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends no appropriation for the Corporation for National and Community Service. The House-passed bill also provides for termination of this entity.

In concurring with the House recommendation that no funding be provided for the Corporation for National Service, the Committee notes that the Government Accounting Office has concluded that the cost per participant in the Americorps Program exceed \$26,000 per year, a level which cannot be sustained in the current budget environment.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 1995	\$2,000,000
Budget estimate, 1996	2,000,000
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office of Inspector within the Corporation for National and Community Service is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. The goals of the Office are to increase organizational efficiency and effectiveness and to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. The Office of Inspector General within the Corporation for National and Community Service was transferred to the Corporation from the former ACTION agency when ACTION was abolished and merged into the Corporation in April 1994.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends termination of the Office of the Inspector General, along with discontinuation of the Corporation as a whole.

U.S. COURT OF VETERANS APPEALS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 1995	\$9,429,000
Budget estimate, 1996	9,820,000
House allowance	9,000,000
Committee recommendation	9,000,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Court of Veterans Appeals was established by the Veterans' Judicial Review Act. The court has exclusive jurisdiction to review decisions of the Board of Veterans' Appeals. It has the authority to decide all relevant questions of law, interpret constitutional, statutory, and regulatory provisions, and determine the meaning or applicability of the terms of an action by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is authorized to compel action by the Department unlawfully withheld or unreasonably delayed. It is authorized to hold unlawful and set-aside decisions, findings, conclusions, rules and regulations issued or adopted by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

The fiscal year 1995 budget provided \$1,200,000 for the Fire Safe Cigarette Act upon authorization. The legislation was not enacted, therefore, these funds were not used in fiscal year 1995 and will be returned to the Treasury. Consequently, the fiscal year 1995 budget was in effect \$41,309,000 and the amount provided represents a real decrease of only \$1,309,000 below fiscal year 1995.

It is noted that agency management currently comprises 19 percent of the budget and could absorb budget reductions without impacting agency programs. Such a reduction would be in keeping with the CPSC Chairman's organizational restructuring which was recently initiated. According to the agency, the restructuring will reduce management layers and reduce administrative costs associated with personnel, procurement, space, and other support services. If accelerated, the Committee believes the restructuring could effectuate budgetary savings in fiscal year 1996. The Committee wishes to be kept apprised of all restructuring activities on a regular basis.

The Committee notes that the Commission's budget request includes a 60-percent increase in travel costs. The Commission is directed to maintain travel costs at or below the fiscal year 1995 level.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

OPERATING EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 1995	\$575,000,000
Budget estimate, 1996	817,476,000
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Corporation for National and Community Service, a Corporation owned by the Federal Government, was established by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-82) to enhance opportunities for national and community service and provide national service educational awards. The Corporation makes grants to States, institutions of higher education, public and private nonprofit organizations, and others to create service opportunities for a wide variety of individuals such as students, out-of-school youth, and adults through innovative, full-time national and community service programs. National service participants may receive educational awards which may be used for full-time or part-time higher education, vocational education, job training, or school-to-work programs.

The Corporation is governed by a board of directors and headed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. Board members and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation are appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate.

General administration.—The Committee recommends \$274,775,000 general administration, which is \$18,368,000 below the request, and \$22,815,000 below the 1995 funding level. The Committee does not object to the use of up to \$2,000,000 to maintain core international functions and coordinating activities.

General.—The Committee considers any restructuring or reorganization related to the reinvention proposal to be subject to the Committee's review pursuant to the reprogramming guidelines. The Committee expresses its support for maintaining the Northeastern Area Headquarters and Forest Experimental Station in Radnor, PA.

The Committee was very disturbed to learn that the Forest Service has reprogrammed \$10,000,000 to initiate an Americorps program without advance notification to the Committee. This is a clear abuse of the funding flexibility the Committee has provided through the establishment of reprogramming guidelines, and circumvents the role of the Congress to oversee and approve the funding of the executive branch. The Committee takes this violation of the reprogramming process very seriously, and has included section 312 in Title III, General Provisions, which prohibits the use of any funds in the bill for the Americorps program in 1996. The Committee will closely review the need for continued funding for this program, as well as the Forest Service's internal controls for reprogrammings, during the 1997 hearings.

The Committee urges the Forest Service to maintain the 1995 funding level for the Pacific Northwest Forest plan.

The Committee is concerned that the some of the money provided for the "Jobs in the Woods" program has not been used for its intended purpose. The Forest Service is directed to take appropriate actions to use project dollars to hire dislocated timber and forest workers from forest dependent communities and to provide job training in support of those workers.

The Committee is aware of the old growth and roadless inventory being conducted as part of the Southern Appalachian Assessment. The Committee encourages the continuation of planned or existing timber sales during the period of the inventory, and believes that the assessment should not encourage the withdrawal of these lands from timber production. The Committee expects that no new lands should be granted designation as "roadless" or other similar designation that might preclude the development or enhancement of transportation systems designed for use by motor vehicles until the Forest Service has completed a thorough review during the individual forest plan revision of the potential impacts of such designations on the following: forest-dependent communities; forest resource management initiatives designed to enhance forest health; local and national supplies of forest resource commodities; and the establishment of recreational facilities.

Administrative provisions.—Under the administrative provisions section of the bill, the Committee has retained language requiring advance submission of proposals to change boundaries, close offices, change the appropriations structure, or use transfer authority.

The Committee has continued language limiting clearcutting in the Wayne NF, OH. Language has been included prohibiting

Committee recommends continuing several provisions carried in previous bills as follows. Section 301 provides for public availability of information on consulting services contracts. Section 302 limits non-competitive leasing of oil and natural gas on the Shawnee National Forest, Illinois. Section 303 prohibits activities to promote public support or opposition to legislative proposals. Section 304 provides for annual appropriations unless expressly provided otherwise in this Act. Section 305 limits the use of personal cooks, chauffeurs or servants. Section 306 limits assessments against programs without Committee approval. Section 307 contains Buy American procedures and requirements. Section 308 limits the sale of giant sequoia trees by the Forest Service. Section 309 prohibits the use of funds by the National Park Service to enter into a contract requiring the removal of the underground lunchroom at Carlsbad Caverns NP.

Section 310 allows the Secretary to determine the use of certain construction funds after consultation with tribes.

Section 311 provides that quarterly payments to tribes may be made on the first business day following the first day of a fiscal year.

Section 312 provides that no funds can be used for Americorps. Section 313 provides for the dissolution of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation on April 1, 1996, and for the transfer of certain PADC responsibilities to other agencies.

Section 314 relates to the Columbia River Basin Ecoregion Assessment.

The Committee believes that the Interior Columbia Basin Ecoregion Management Project has collected important scientific information on forest health conditions which is particularly relevant to forest management opportunities and needs. Despite this accomplishment, the Project has grown too large and too costly to sustain in a time of fiscal constraints and is drawing away personnel and funding that should be employed for on the ground management. Consequently, the section halts all funding of the Project, with one exception. It makes funds available to the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to publish the data collected and the analysis accomplished by the Project, specifically as this Project relates to forest health and management needs, prior to the date of enactment of the Act. The deadline for this publication is January 1, 1996. The section makes clear that the publication is to be submitted both to peer review and public comment. The Committee expects the Forest Service to provide \$430,000 and the Bureau of Land Management to provide \$170,000 of the \$600,000 allocated for this purpose. Of the remaining \$6,100,000 requested in the budget for the Project a sum of \$3,000,000 was allocated to the Forest Service, National Forest System, to conduct site-specific watershed and environmental analyses in the area encompassed by the Project where necessary to resume multiple use programs. The remaining \$3,100,000 was not appropriated so as to contribute to the deficit reduction effort.

The Committee does not wish the termination of the Project to be a justification for the continued development and implementation of broadly applicable interim forest management guidelines such as the Eastside Screens, PACFISH, and INFISH. These guide-

0,000,000 for challenge
of \$9,180,000 as proposed

PRESERVATION

SES

500,000 for salaries and
ad of \$3,063,000 as pro-

esely with Federal agen-
service and State historic
onsibility for designating
istance, overriding other
ctions taken by property

al agencies and depart-
ouncil's expert advice to
gers are concerned that
icate those conducted by
managers direct the Ad-
er the costs of assisting
gh reimbursable agree-
ties to identify ways to
ies. The Advisory Coun-
by March 31, 1996.

RIAL COMMISSION

ES

47,000 as proposed by
y the House.

NT CORPORATION

ES

unds as proposed by the
the House.

e proposed by the Sen-
r operating and admin-
the use of prior year
operating costs. In addi-
nd activities associated
al Services Administra-

an \$3,000,000 in prior
istrative expenses, and
ue Development Cor-
derly shutdown of the
nths from the date of
aintained beyond April
vania Avenue Develop-

ment Corporation staff associated with the Federal Triangle project should be transferred to the General Services Administration, and provision for the transfer has been included in the Treasury-Postal Services Appropriations bill.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

Amendment No. 147: Appropriates \$28,707,000 for the Holocaust Memorial Council as proposed by the House instead of \$26,609,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 148: Restores language proposed by the House and stricken by the Senate providing that \$1,264,000 for the Museum's exhibition program shall remain available until expended.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Amendment No. 149: Retains Senate provision making a technical correction to Public Law 103-413.

Amendment No. 150: Includes Senate provision that any funds used for the Americorps program are subject to the reprogramming guidelines, and can only be used if the Americorps program is funded in the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies fiscal year 1996 appropriations bill. The House prohibited the use of any funds for the Americorps program.

Since the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA) is funded through fiscal year 1996, the managers agree that the agencies are not prohibited from granting the NWSA a special use permit, from using the NWSA to accomplish projects on agency-managed lands or in furtherance of the agencies' missions, or from paying the NWSA a reasonable fee-for-service for projects.

Amendment No. 151: Modifies House language stricken by the Senate transferring certain responsibilities from the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation to the General Services Administration, National Capital Planning Commission, and the National Park Service. The modification transfers all unobligated and unexpended balances to the General Services Administration. The Senate has no similar provision.

Amendment No. 152: Modifies House and Senate provisions relating to the Interior Columbia River Basin ecoregion management project (the Project). The House and Senate contained different language on the subject, but both versions were clear in their position that the Project has grown too large, and too costly to sustain in a time of shrinking budgets. In addition, the massive nature of the undertaking, and the broad geographic scope of the decisions to be made as part of a single project has raised concerns about potential vulnerability to litigation and court injunctions with a regionwide impact. The language included in the conference report reflects a compromise between the two versions.

Subsection (b) appropriates \$4,000,000 for the completion of an assessment on the National forest system lands and lands administered by the BLM within the area encompassed by the Project, and to publish two draft Environmental Impact Statements on the Project. The Forest Service and BLM should rely heavily on the eastside forest ecosystem health assessment in the development of

Amendment proposed by Mr. Gorton: *for Mrs. Murray*

On page 103, on line 25 strike "." and insert the following:

" , unless the relevant agencies of the Department of Interior and/or Agriculture follow appropriate reprogramming guidelines. Provided further: if no funds are provided for the AmeriCorps program by the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies fiscal year 1996 appropriations bill, then none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for the AmeriCorps program."

Post It Fax Note		Date	# of pages
To <i>Elizabeth</i>	From <i>Maria</i>		
cc Dept			
Phone #	Phone #		
Fax #	Fax #		

PROPERTY
PRESERVATION

104TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES }

REPORT
104-259

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND
RELATED AGENCIES, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30,
1996, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SEPTEMBER 21, 1995.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. REGULA, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 1977]

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1977) "making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes," having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its amendments numbered 4, 21, 24, 26, 40, 54, 57, 67, 77, 83, 85, 94, 99, 100, 105, 107, 111, 117, 118, 123, 136, 138, 147, 148, 155, 163, 166, 171, 172, and 173.

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendments of the Senate numbered 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 32, 34, 36, 38, 45, 46, 48, 50, 51, 52, 56, 59, 61, 62, 66, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 80, 81, 82, 86, 87, 88, 93, 96, 97, 102, 103, 106, 109, 113, 121, 124, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 133, 134, 137, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 149, 150, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, and 162, and agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 1:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 1, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment insert the following: , and assessment of mineral potential of public lands pursuant to P.L. 96-487 (16 U.S.C. 3150 (a)), \$568,062,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 2:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 2, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:



And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 90:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 90, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment insert: \$178,000,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 91:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 91, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment insert the following: *\$136,794,000, to remain available until expended, as authorized by law; and the Senate agree to the same.*

Amendment numbered 92:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 92, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment insert: \$1,256,253,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 95:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 95, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment insert: \$163,500,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 98:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 98, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum proposed by said amendment insert: \$41,200,000; and the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 101:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 101, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

Retain the matter proposed by said amendment amended as follows:

Following "Forest Service," in said amendment insert: *other than the relocation of the Regional Office for Region 5 of the Forest Service from San Francisco to excess military property at Mare Island, Vallejo, California.*

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 104:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 104, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment insert:

Any funds available to the Forest Service may be used for retrofitting Mare Island facilities to accommodate the relocation: Provided, That funds for the move must come from funds otherwise available to Region 5: Provided further, That any funds to be pro-

X

vided for such purposes shall only be available upon approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. X

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 108:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 108, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed by said amendment insert:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the duration of fiscal year 1996 none of the funds provided in this or any other appropriations Act may be used in the Tongass National Forest except to implement the Preferred Alternative P in the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (dated October 1992) as selected in the Record of Decision Review Draft #3-2/93 (hereinafter referred to as "Alternative P") which shall be deemed sufficient to satisfy all requirements of applicable law: Provided, That the Forest Service may amend the plan during fiscal year 1996 only to the extent necessary to accommodate commercial tourism if an agreement is signed between the Forest Service and the Alaska Visitors' Association: Provided further, That the Secretary shall continue the current Tongass land management planning process, and may replace or modify Alternative P with the selected alternative of a revised Tongass Land Management Plan ("TLMP") which shall, to the maximum extent practicable, contain at least the number of acres of suitable, available timber lands and suitable, scheduled timber lands identified in Alternative P: Provided further, That if the Forest Service fails to complete work on a revised TLMP during fiscal year 1996, Alternative P shall remain in effect until such time as a revised plan is completed in accordance with this section and is in effect: Provided further, That hereinafter, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any timber sale or offering that was prepared for acceptance, or was awarded to a purchaser after December 31, 1988, which has been the subject of an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and a review under section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act ("ANILCA"), and was subsequently offered or awarded to a different purchaser or offeree shall not be subject to additional analysis under NEPA or ANILCA through any action of the Federal government or by order of any court of law if the Forest Service determines in a Supplemental Evaluation that no such analysis is necessary: Provided further, That section 502 of P.L. 104-19 shall be deemed permanent law.

And the Senate agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 110:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 110, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the sum stricken and inserted by said amendment insert: *and for promoting health and safety in mines and the mineral industry through research (30 U.S.C. 3, 861(b), and 951(a)), for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30*

to seek full funding for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie as part of its fiscal year 1997 budget request.

The managers are concerned about the many programs in the President's Forest Plan designed to provide assistance to timber dependent communities in the Pacific Northwest. The managers are disturbed by the inability of the agencies involved to provide a detailed accounting of funds appropriated in previous fiscal years for the unemployed timber worker programs in the President's Forest Plan.

The managers expect the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to prepare a detailed accounting and report of the funds appropriated in fiscal year 1995 for the President's Forest plan. The report shall include a careful accounting of appropriated funding, including: funds appropriated for timber production; administrative expenses, including the number of Federal employees employed to administer the various aspects of the President's plan; funds appropriated for the various jobs programs allowed for under the President's plan, including but not limited to the Jobs in the Woods program; the number of individuals employed by these programs; and the average length of each job. The managers expect the Secretaries to submit the report to the Committees no later than March 31, 1996.

The managers are concerned that the Forest Service reallocates funding pursuant to reprogramming requests before they are transmitted to Congress. The managers direct the Forest Service to adhere to the reprogramming guidelines, and not reallocate funds until the Appropriations Committees have had an opportunity to review these proposals.

The managers believe that additional opportunities exist for contracting Forest Service activities, and encourage expanding the use of contractors wherever possible.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Amendment No. 93: Changes the account title to Wildland Fire Management as proposed by the Senate, instead of Fire Protection and Emergency Suppression as proposed by the House.

Amendment No. 94: Appropriates \$385,485,000 for wildland fire management as proposed by the House instead of \$381,485,000 as proposed by the Senate.

CONSTRUCTION

Amendment No. 95: Appropriates \$163,500,000 for construction, instead of \$120,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$186,888,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The increase above the House includes \$23,500,000 for facilities, \$5,000,000 for road construction, and \$15,000,000 for trail construction. Within the total for facilities, the conference agreement includes \$36,000,000 for recreation, \$10,000,000 for FA&O, and \$2,500,000 for research.

The managers agree to the following earmarks within recreation construction:

Allegheny NF, rehabilitation	\$150,000
Bead Lake, WA, boating access	60,000
Bead Lake, WA, roads	176,000

normal reprogramming guidelines. The managers have deleted all references to specific earmarkings included in the Senate report.

The managers continue to encourage strongly the use of land exchanges as a way in which to protect important recreational or environmentally significant lands, in lieu of the Federal Government acquiring lands. The managers believe that land exchanges represent a more cost-effective way in which to do business and encourage the Forest Service to give high priority to those exchanges either nearing completion, or where land management decisions are made particularly difficult due to checkerboard ownership.

The managers are concerned about the long history of problems associated with the implementation of land acquisition provisions in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Act. To date, nearly \$40 million has been spent on land acquisitions in the Gorge, and the Forest Service estimates that nearly \$20-\$30 million in remaining land is left to be acquired. The Gorge Act authorizes land exchanges in the area, and while several exchanges have been completed, a substantial number of acres remain to be acquired to fulfill the purposes of the Scenic Act. The managers strongly support the use of land exchanges versus land acquisitions. The managers understand that the Forest Service has the existing statutory authority to conduct land exchanges in the Scenic Area, including tripartite land-for-timber exchanges.

The managers encourage the Forest Service to enter into land exchanges, including tripartite land exchanges, with willing land owners in the Gorge to diminish the need for future acquisitions.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, FOREST SERVICE

Amendment No. 101: Retains Senate provision which prohibits any reorganization without the consent of the appropriations and authorizing committees and adds a provision exempting the relocation of the Region 5 regional offices from the requirement to obtain the consent of the authorizing and appropriations committees. The House had no similar provision. X

The managers are concerned that the Forest Service is being required to move the Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia from its present location to a new Federal Center in downtown Atlanta at greatly increased costs. At the same time, accessibility for both the public and employees will be made more difficult. Requiring the Forest Service to absorb increased costs for no increase in effectiveness or efficiency is not acceptable. The managers agree that any relocation of the Atlanta office can occur only pursuant to the bill language restrictions which require the advance approval of the authorizing and appropriations committees. This will allow the committees the opportunity to examine closely the costs and benefits of any such proposal, and require the Administration to justify fully any additional expenditures.

Amendment No. 102: Includes Senate provision which adds the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to the list of committees which must approve reorganizations pursuant to amendment No. 101. The House had no similar provision.

Amendment No. 103: Includes the Senate provision which adds the Committee on Resources to the list of committees which must

10,000,000 for challenge
of \$9,180,000 as proposed

PRESERVATION

SES

5,500,000 for salaries and
ad of \$3,063,000 as pro-

osely with Federal agen-
Service and State historic
onsibility for designating
istance, overriding other
actions taken by property

al agencies and depart-
ouncil's expert advice to
gers are concerned that
icate those conducted by
managers direct the Ad-
er the costs of assisting
gh reimbursable agree-
ties to identify ways to
ies. The Advisory Coun-
by March 31, 1996.

RIAL COMMISSION

ES

147,000 as proposed by
y the House.

NT CORPORATION

ES

unds as proposed by the
the House.

e proposed by the Sen-
r operating and admin-
the use of prior year
operating costs. In addi-
nd activities associated
al Services Administra-

an \$3,000,000 in prior
istrative expenses, and
ue Development Cor-
derly shutdown of the
nths from the date of
aintained beyond April
ania Avenue Develop-

ment Corporation staff associated with the Federal Triangle project should be transferred to the General Services Administration, and provision for the transfer has been included in the Treasury-Postal Services Appropriations bill.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

Amendment No. 147: Appropriates \$28,707,000 for the Holocaust Memorial Council as proposed by the House instead of \$26,609,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Amendment No. 148: Restores language proposed by the House and stricken by the Senate providing that \$1,264,000 for the Museum's exhibition program shall remain available until expended.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Amendment No. 149: Retains Senate provision making a technical correction to Public Law 103-413.

Amendment No. 150: Includes Senate provision that any funds used for the Americorps program are subject to the reprogramming guidelines, and can only be used if the Americorps program is funded in the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies fiscal year 1996 appropriations bill. The House prohibited the use of any funds for the Americorps program.

Since the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA) is funded through fiscal year 1996, the managers agree that the agencies are not prohibited from granting the NWSA a special use permit, from using the NWSA to accomplish projects on agency-managed lands or in furtherance of the agencies' missions, or from paying the NWSA a reasonable fee-for-service for projects.

Amendment No. 151: Modifies House language stricken by the Senate transferring certain responsibilities from the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation to the General Services Administration, National Capital Planning Commission, and the National Park Service. The modification transfers all unobligated and unexpended balances to the General Services Administration. The Senate has no similar provision.

Amendment No. 152: Modifies House and Senate provisions relating to the Interior Columbia River Basin ecoregion management project (the Project). The House and Senate contained different language on the subject, but both versions were clear in their position that the Project has grown too large, and too costly to sustain in a time of shrinking budgets. In addition, the massive nature of the undertaking, and the broad geographic scope of the decisions to be made as part of a single project has raised concerns about potential vulnerability to litigation and court injunctions with a regionwide impact. The language included in the conference report reflects a compromise between the two versions.

Subsection (b) appropriates \$4,000,000 for the completion of an assessment on the National forest system lands and lands administered by the BLM within the area encompassed by the Project, and to publish two draft Environmental Impact Statements on the Project. The Forest Service and BLM should rely heavily on the eastside forest ecosystem health assessment in the development of

Americorp
Reference Material
for 1996 Program

Attachment 1	1995 Interior & Related Agencies Reprogramming Guidelines
Attachment 2	1996 House Report & Bill Language on Americorps
Attachment 3	1996 Senate Report and Bill Language on Americorps
Attachment 4	1996 Bill Language based on 9/21 Conference Report
Attachment 5	1996 Conference Report
Attachment 6	Northwest Service Academy Briefing Paper
Attachment 7	VA-HUD Senate Language on Americorp
Attachment 8	Decision Memo to Under Secretary Reprogramming Request to Congress

103D CONGRESS
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
103-551

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1995

JUNE 17, 1994.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. YATES, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 4602]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, the bill provides regular annual appropriations for the Department of the Interior (except the Bureau of Reclamation) and for other related agencies, including the Forest Service, the Department of Energy, the Indian Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

CONTENTS

	Page	
	Bill	Report
Department of the Interior:		
Bureau of Land Management	2	9
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	9	17
National Biological Survey	14	26
National Park Service	15	29
U.S. Geological Survey	18	40



Item	Fiscal year—		
	1993	1994	1995
New obligational authority	\$12,524,207,000	\$13,388,440,000	\$13,193,894,000
Receipts:			
Department of the Interior	5,424,546,000	5,401,159,000	6,708,666,000
Forest Service	1,024,206,000	1,044,175,000	1,013,655,000
Naval petroleum reserves	442,700,000	427,700,000	410,546,000
Total receipts	6,891,452,000	6,873,034,000	8,132,867,000

REPROGRAMMING PROCEDURES

The Committee has revised its threshold for reprogrammings from \$250,000 or 10 percent to \$500,000 or 10 percent and provided exceptions for certain programs in the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Forest Service (see item 3 below).

The following are revised procedures governing reprogramming actions for programs and activities funded in the Interior Appropriations Act:

1. *Definition.*—"Reprogramming," as defined in these procedures, includes the reallocation of funds from one budget activity to another. In cases where either Committee report displays an allocation of an appropriation below the activity level, that more detailed level shall be the basis for reprogramming. For construction accounts, a reprogramming constitutes the reallocation of funds from one construction project identified in the justifications to another. A reprogramming shall also consist of any significant departure from the program described in the agency's budget justifications. This includes proposed reorganizations even without a change in funding.

2. *Guidelines for reprogramming.*—(a) A reprogramming should be made only when an unforeseen situation arises; and then only if postponement of the project or the activity until the next appropriation year would result in actual loss or damage. Mere convenience or desire should not be factors for consideration.

(b) Any project or activity which may be deferred through reprogramming shall not later be accomplished by means of further reprogramming; but, instead, funds should again be sought for the deferred project or activity through the regular appropriations process.

(c) Reprogramming should not be employed to initiate new programs or to change allocations specifically denied, limited or increased by the Congress in the Act or the report. In cases where unforeseen events or conditions are deemed to require such changes, proposals shall be submitted in advance to the Committee, regardless of amounts involved, and be fully explained and justified.

(d) Reprogramming proposals submitted to the Committee for prior approval shall be considered approved after 30 calendar days if the Committee has posed no objection. However, agencies will be expected to extend the approval deadline if specifically requested by either Committee.

3. *Criteria and exceptions.*—Any proposed reprogramming must be submitted to the Committee in writing prior to implementation

if it exceeds \$500,000 annually or results in an increase or decrease of more than 10 percent annually in affected programs, with the following exceptions:

(a) With regard to the Tribal Priority Allocations activity of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Operations of Indian Programs account, there is no restriction on reprogrammings among the programs within this activity. However, the Bureau shall report on all reprogrammings made during the first six months of the fiscal year by no later than May 1 of each year, and shall provide a final report of all reprogrammings for the previous fiscal year by no later than November 1 of each year.

(b) With regard to the Management of Lands and Resources account of the Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Research, State and Private Forestry, and National Forest System accounts of the Forest Service, the reprogramming control level will be at the budget line item level (for example, land resources, wildlife and fisheries, and recreation management for BLM, and ecosystem planning, recreation use and wildlife and fish management for the National Forest System). A reprogramming will be triggered if these line items are proposed to be changed by \$3,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less.

The BLM and Forest Service are to maintain all specific Congressional designations, in any amount, or to submit a reprogramming request if any such designation is proposed for a change, even if it falls below the reprogramming levels specified above.

With regard to the extended budget line items (EBLIS's) (for example, soil, water and air management, wildlife management, and wilderness management for BLM, and recreation management, wildlife habitat management, and timber sales management for the National Forest System), the BLM and Forest Service are to submit a series of reports to the Appropriations Committees, on the following schedule:

(1) A report due by November 1, or 30 days after the appropriations bill is enacted into law if enacted after October 1, reflecting Congressional action and showing any other revisions at the EBLI level since the budget was submitted the previous February. This will become the baseline for reporting throughout the year;

(2) A mid-year report of actual costs by EBLI as of March 31, with a projection for the remainder of the year, due no later than May 1;

(3) An update of actual costs by EBLI as of July 31, with updated year end projections if necessary, due no later than September 1;

(4) An end of the year report by EBLI, incorporated into the next fiscal year's baseline report, due by November 1.

4. *Quarterly reports.*—(a) All reprogrammings shall be reported to the Committee quarterly and shall include cumulative totals.

(b) Any significant shifts of funding among object classifications also should be reported to the Committee.

5. *Administrative Overhead Accounts.*—For all appropriations where costs of overhead administrative expenses are funded in part from "assessments" of various budget activities within an appro-

104TH CONGRESS }
1st Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
104-173

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1996

JUNE 30, 1995.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. REGULA, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

DISSENTING VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 1977]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, the bill provides regular annual appropriations for the Department of the Interior (except the Bureau of Reclamation) and for other related agencies, including the Forest Service, the Department of Energy, the Indian Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

CONTENTS

	Page number	
	Bill	Report
Department of the Interior:		
Bureau of Land Management	2	12
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	9	22
National Biological Service		30
National Park Service	15	30
U.S. Geological Survey	18	39
Minerals Management Service	21	43
Bureau of Mines	23	47
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	24	48
Bureau of Indian Affairs	27	51

91-751



General administration.—The Committee recommends \$274,775,000 general administration, which is \$18,368,000 below the request, and \$22,815,000 below the 1995 funding level. The Committee does not object to the use of up to \$2,000,000 to maintain core international functions and coordinating activities.

General.—The Committee considers any restructuring or reorganization related to the reinvention proposal to be subject to the Committee's review pursuant to the reprogramming guidelines. The Committee expresses its support for maintaining the Northeastern Area Headquarters and Forest Experimental Station in Radnor, PA.

The Committee was very disturbed to learn that the Forest Service has reprogrammed \$10,000,000 to initiate an AmeriCorps program without advance notification to the Committee. This is a clear abuse of the funding flexibility the Committee has provided through the establishment of reprogramming guidelines, and circumvents the role of the Congress to oversee and approve the funding of the executive branch. The Committee takes this violation of the reprogramming process very seriously, and has included section 312 in Title III, General Provisions, which prohibits the use of any funds in the bill for the AmeriCorps program in 1996. The Committee will closely review the need for continued funding for this program, as well as the Forest Service's internal controls for reprogrammings, during the 1997 hearings.

The Committee urges the Forest Service to maintain the 1995 funding level for the Pacific Northwest Forest plan.

The Committee is concerned that the some of the money provided for the "Jobs in the Woods" program has not been used for its intended purpose. The Forest Service is directed to take appropriate actions to use project dollars to hire dislocated timber and forest workers from forest dependent communities and to provide job training in support of those workers.

The Committee is aware of the old growth and roadless inventory being conducted as part of the Southern Appalachian Assessment. The Committee encourages the continuation of planned or existing timber sales during the period of the inventory, and believes that the assessment should not encourage the withdrawal of these lands from timber production. The Committee expects that no new lands should be granted designation as "roadless" or other similar designation that might preclude the development or enhancement of transportation systems designed for use by motor vehicles until the Forest Service has completed a thorough review during the individual forest plan revision of the potential impacts of such designations on the following: forest-dependent communities; forest resource management initiatives designed to enhance forest health; local and national supplies of forest resource commodities; and the establishment of recreational facilities.

Administrative provisions.—Under the administrative provisions section of the bill, the Committee has retained language requiring advance submission of proposals to change boundaries, close offices, change the appropriations structure, or use transfer authority.

The Committee has continued language limiting clearcutting in the Wayne NF, OH. Language has been included prohibiting

1 SEC. 310. Where the actual costs of construction
2 projects under self-determination contracts, compacts, or
3 grants, pursuant to Public Laws 93-638, 100-413, or
4 100-297, are less than the estimated costs thereof, use
5 of the resulting excess funds shall be determined by the
6 appropriate Secretary after consultation with the tribes.

7 SEC. 311. Notwithstanding Public Law 103-413,
8 quarterly payments of funds to tribes and tribal organiza-
9 tions under annual funding agreements pursuant to sec-
10 tion 108 of Public Law 93-638, as amended, may be made
11 on the first business day following the first day of a fiscal
12 quarter.

13 SEC. 312. None of funds in this Act may be used
14 for the Americorps program.

15 SEC. 313. (a) On or before April 1, 1996, the Penn-
16 sylvania Avenue Development Corporation shall—

17 (1) transfer and assign in accordance with this
18 section all of its rights, title, and interest in and to
19 all of the leases, covenants, agreements, and ease-
20 ments it has executed or will execute by March 31,
21 1996, in carrying out its powers and duties under
22 the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation
23 Act (40 U.S.C. 871-885) and the Federal Triangle
24 Development Act (40 U.S.C. 1101-1109) to the
25 General Services Administration, National Capital

Calendar No. 160

104TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }SENATE{ REPORT
104-125 }DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1996

JULY 28 (legislative day, JULY 10), 1995.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GORTON, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 1977]

The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred the bill (H.R. 1977) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, reports the same to the Senate with amendments and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

Amounts in new budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 1996

Amount of bill passed by House	\$11,984,603,000
Amount of increase by Senate	+ 68,484,000
Total of bill as reported to Senate	12,053,087,000
Estimates considered by House	13,817,404,000
Estimates considered by Senate	13,817,404,000
Below the budget estimate, 1996	- 1,764,317,000
Below appropriations, 1995	- 1,466,143,000

ployees employed to administer the various aspects of the President's plan; funds appropriated for the various jobs programs allowed for under the President's plan, including but not limited to the Jobs in the Woods Program, the number of individuals employed by these programs, and the average length of each job. The Committee directs the Secretaries to submit the report to the Committee no later than March 31, 1996.

The Committee concurs with the House language regarding the Jobs in the Woods Program and the goal of hiring dislocated timber and forest workers from forest dependent communities and to provide job training in support of those workers.

The Committee agrees with the House on the Americorps provision and is including language which stipulates that none of the funds appropriated in this bill may be used for Americorps implementation. The Committee notes that the Forest Service disregarded guidance provided in fiscal year 1995 about Americorps.

Language is included under title III, general provisions (sec. 308) protecting giant sequoias found on Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service lands. The Committee is concerned about fuel loading in adjacent areas which may pose a threat to the giant sequoias. Natural resource experts in the agencies have indicated the value and/or appropriateness of some controlled burns in order to protect the giant sequoias. The agencies should also consider the appropriateness of removing dense understory species which have the potential to carry fire into the crowns of sequoia trees.

As dollars and personnel ceilings become more constrained, the Forest Service should engage in greater amounts of contracting for those activities where it is not essential for a Federal employee to conduct the work. The Committee expects the Forest Service to develop a plan, in conjunction with the fiscal year 1997 budget submission, and identify where such contracting would be possible, and if not possible, why not. The plan should include one demonstration forest per region. Activities to be contracted might include projects such as environmental assessments, resource field work, and forest plan monitoring. Opportunities to engage in such contracting may be prevalent in areas that have been affected adversely by the decreased Federal timber sales program in recent years. If additional legislative authority is necessary to conduct such a program, suggested language should be included in the plan.

FOREST SERVICE FIRE PROTECTION

Appropriations, 1995	\$159,285,000
Budget estimate, 1996	164,285,000
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	

The Committee has eliminated this account and included funding for this activity under wildland fire management.

1 Management lands in a manner different than such sales
2 were conducted in fiscal year 1995.

3 SEC. 309. None of the funds made available by this
4 Act may be obligated or expended by the National Park
5 Service to enter into or implement a concession contract
6 which permits or requires the removal of the underground
7 lunchroom at the Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

8 SEC. 310. Where the actual costs of construction
9 projects under self-determination contracts, compacts, or
10 grants, pursuant to Public Laws 93-638, ~~100-413~~ 103-
11 413, or 100-297, are less than the estimated costs thereof,
12 use of the resulting excess funds shall be determined by
13 the appropriate Secretary after consultation with the
14 tribes.

15 SEC. 311. Notwithstanding Public Law 103-413,
16 quarterly payments of funds to tribes and tribal organiza-
17 tions under annual funding agreements pursuant to sec-
18 tion 108 of Public Law 93-638, as amended, may be made
19 on the first business day following the first day of a fiscal
20 quarter.

21 ~~SEC. 312. None of funds in this Act may be used~~
22 ~~for the Americorps program.~~

23 *SEC. 312. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise*
24 *made available by this Act may be used for the AmeriCorps*
25 *program.*



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

September 22, 1995

To: Charlie Rawls, OSEC
Dennis Kaplan, OBPA
Michael Kiely, OGC
Stephanie Hague, NRE

From: Joel Berg *JB*

Subject: Most Recent Version of Forest Service AmeriCorps Reprogramming Letter

As you know, the Interior Appropriations Conference handed a major victory to the USDA AmeriCorps program by including the Senate's language that would allow the Forest Service to continue funding AmeriCorps if we follow "appropriate reprogramming guidelines."

Attached is the revised letter which reflects both the actions of the Conference and comments by OGC and OBPA. The revised version --- along with a cover decision memorandum for the Secretary --- is once again working its way back through the Forest Service controlled correspondence system, and I will get you the official copy for clearance as soon as I get it. In the meantime, I would greatly appreciate it if you could concurrently review the revised version that is attached. The White House has expressed their interest in us getting the letter to OMB as soon as possible.

Given that the second year of the USDA AmeriCorps program --- including the Forest service component --- is scheduled to begin October 12, it is critical we resolve this issue rapidly. Thank you for your help.

Please call me at 720-6350 if you have any questions.

DRAFT

Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Chairman Regula:

I am writing to inform you of the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) intentions regarding the use of Forest Service funds in FY 1996 for the AmeriCorps programs in the event that section 312, as adopted by conferees on the FY 1996 Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill (H.R. 1977), is enacted. This section prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps programs unless the relevant agency follows "appropriate reprogramming guidelines." Further, section 312 prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps programs "if no funds are provided for the AmeriCorps program by the Department of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD), and Independent Agencies' fiscal year 1996 appropriations bill.

In accordance with section 312, the Forest Service is intending to reprogram \$10 million from various National Forest System and related funds and State and Private Forestry funds to carry out authorized work projects through the AmeriCorps national service program in FY 1996.

The Forest Service ran a Public Lands Corps in FY 1995 through which 297 AmeriCorps members on National Forest land in eight States performed rehabilitation and watershed protection work, reforested fire-damaged lands, constructed and maintained trails for hiking and horseback riding, planted cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations, maintained and rehabilitated campgrounds, made campgrounds accessible for people with disabilities, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.

The Forest Service also ran a Rural Development Team in FY 1995 through which 86 AmeriCorps members in 16 States worked on projects related to areas such as running water and indoor plumbing, emergency response and prevention, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, tourism promotion, water quality protection, recycling promotion, cultural resource preservation, and relocation of residents of flood plains.

Forest Service AmeriCorps members are getting things done and providing vital services, while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and encouraging personal responsibility.

Under current law, Federal agencies may receive limited grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) which is funded by the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1995, although much of the CNCS appropriations is available not for FY 1995, but for the period September 1, 1995, through August 31, 1996. The final size of the appropriations for CNCS in the FY 1995 appropriations act was determined when the President signed the rescissions bill, Pub. L. No. 104-19. Thus, CNCS has determined that it does indeed have enough funding from the FY 1995 appropriations act to provide a grant to the Forest Service to match the Forest Service's FY 1996 funding of AmeriCorps.

The Forest Service is planning a \$10 million AmeriCorps program for FY 1996 that provides for enrolling 470 members in 23 States. This would include 434 members in the Public Lands Corps through the National Forest System program and 36 members in the Rural Development Team through the State and Private Forestry program.

The Forest Service 1996 AmeriCorps program consists of two parts. First is a \$9.5 million program to be funded with National Forest System and related funds. While additional funding was not provided in FY 1995 and is not expected in 1996, the Forest Service will redirect work to the AmeriCorps program which would have been accomplished by other means. Second is a \$500,000 Rural Development Team program to be funded with State and Private Forestry funds. (See enclosure for detailed source of funds.)

The Forest Service is using AmeriCorps as a delivery mechanism to perform work. Since AmeriCorps members perform far more work per dollar than the same work performed through routine means, the Forest Service is able to complete a greater volume of work. After the first 6 months of operation, AmeriCorps members performed at least \$1.51 worth of service for each \$1 spent on the program.

By increasing funding from non-Forest Service partners, reducing overhead costs, and transferring AmeriCorps slots to the project type in which members earn a lower living stipend, a 1996 Forest Service AmeriCorps program can fund more AmeriCorps members for the same level of spending.

Similar letters are being sent to Congressman Yates and Senators Byrd and Gorton.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary

Enclosure

FY 1996 FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

The following reprogramming of FY 1996 Forest Service funds to the AmeriCorps program is requested:

Thousands \$

National Forest System and Related Funds:

Recreation Management (NFRM)	4,352
Wilderness Management (NFWM)	426
Wildlife Habitat Management (NFWL)	832
Inland Fish Habitat Management (NFIF)	324
Anadromous Fish Habitat Management- (NFAF)	400
Threatened and Endangered Sensitive Species Habitat Management (NFTE)	711
Grazing Management (NFRG)	62
Rangeland Vegetation Management (NFRV)	102
Forestland Vegetation Management (NFFV)	750
Watershed Improvement (NFSI)	77
Land Line Location (NFLI)	24
Road Maintenance (NFRD)	63
Forest Trail Construction (CNTR)	628
Brush Disposal (BDBD)	129
Cooperative Work (CWKV)	620
Subtotal	\$ 9,500

Rural Development Team Program:

Economic Action (SPEP)	<u>500</u>
------------------------	------------

Total, AmeriCorps Program	\$10,000
---------------------------	----------

Under the FY 1996 reprogramming for AmeriCorps, trail construction funds would still be used only to build trails; fish habitat management funds would only be used to manage fish habitat; recreation management funds only be used on recreation projects; watershed improvement funds would only be used on watershed work; etc. The only change would be that AmeriCorps members would perform the work rather than using other methods or allowing for a work backlog.



NorthWest Service Academy

An AmeriCorps Program

"Learning civic responsibility by providing service to the community and the environment."

THE PURPOSE of the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA) is to engage over one hundred AmeriCorps Members in hands-on community service projects and to mobilize over one thousand volunteers committed to:

**Renewing native salmon runs,
Restoring local ecosystems, and
Rebuilding local communities.**

AMERICORPS is a national program serving local communities. It is modeled after a combination of three successful and time tested programs. It echoes the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's which dealt with critical environmental issues. It builds upon the success of the G.I. Bill which educated a whole generation of Americans in the 1940's and 1950's. It reflects the enthusiasm and vision of the 1960's when the Peace Corps began involving all ages of Americans in hands-on service world wide.

THE ACADEMY consists of 110 AmeriCorps Members, 18 years of age and older, working together to build a community focused on environmental service. It is located at two sites, one residential and one non-residential, designed to meet the needs of local communities.

NWSA SERVES both Oregon and Washington. The non-residential site near Portland, Oregon is headquarters for 75 Members. It focuses activities in a four-county, bi-state urban service area.

Thirty-five Members serve from the residential site in Trout Lake, Washington. This Center serves a six county, rural, bi-state region.

BENEFITS to Members include the satisfaction of **making a difference** and **getting things done** in local communities. In addition, Academy Members receive a taxable weekly living allowance of \$163.00, health insurance and a child care allowance, if qualified. Upon successfully completing 11 months of service, NWSA Members receive an educational award of \$4,725. This award may be used for up to seven years at any approved college or training program or to pay off existing student loans.

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT encourages civic responsibility and environmental stewardship by challenging Members to become involved in community meetings and organizations as well as learning technical field skills. Leadership will be developed by engaging Members in supervisory roles within the Academy and providing training in mediation and peer counseling. Life skills, career, and educational goals of Members will be addressed through public speaking, writing and planning workshops.

SERVICE PROJECTS bring clear and demonstrable benefits to local communities and their surrounding environment. Academy Members work with local communities to plan and manage projects that address significant environmental needs.

MEMBERS at both Centers demonstrate the Northwest Service Academy's commitment to assemble a diverse corps of adults. Members represent the various geographic, ethnic, educational, and economic groups in the nation.

GEOGRAPHY: 70% of the NWSA Members are from Washington and Oregon.

GENDER: 60% of the NWSA Members are female and 40% are male.

ETHNICITY: 12% of the Members represent self-identified ethnic minorities.

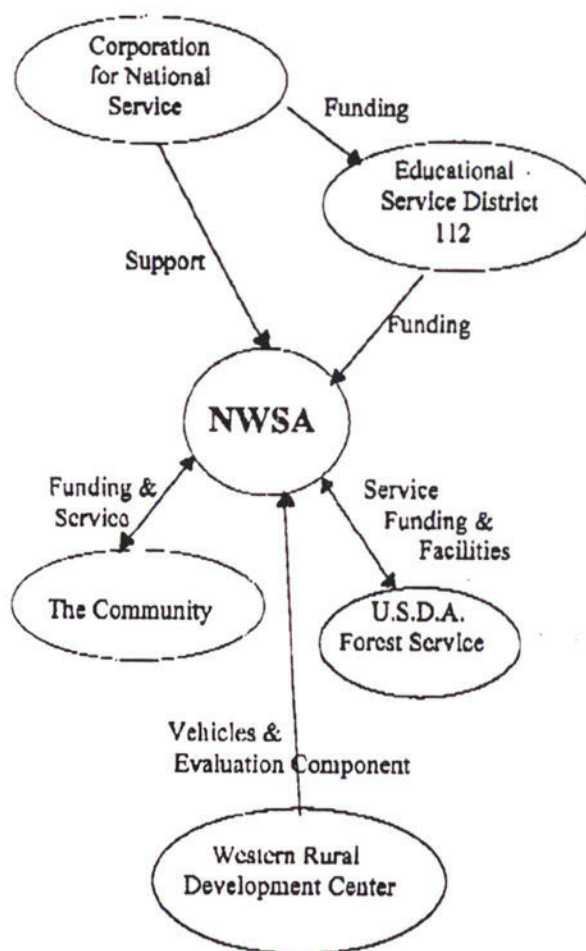
AGE: 18 to 49- (average age: 23)

EDUCATION: 55% of the Members are college graduates (including majors in biology, communications, geography, natural resource management, wildlife management, hydrology, engineering, education and theater). 26% have attended some college and 19% are high school graduates.

INCOME: NWSA Members represent all socio-economic classes of our society.

FUNDING is provided by the Corporation for National Service which requires a local match. For every dollar raised locally, the Corporation for National Service will provide four dollars in matching funds. This year NWSA must raise \$150,000 in local, state and private funds.

STRUCTURE



For More Information Please Contact:

The Northwest Service Academy at the Mt. Adams Center,
2455 Highway 141, Trout Lake, WA
98650 509-395-3469, fax: 509-395-3365
or

The Northwest Service Academy at the Metro Center, 31520
SE Woodard Road, Troutdale, OR
97060, 503-695-3739, fax 503-695-2292



NorthWest Service Academy

An AmeriCorps Program

"Learning civic responsibility by providing service to the community and the environment."

For Immediate Release

July 20, 1995

Contacts: Holly Knight, Recruitment Coordinator and Team Steward, (503) 695-3739

Recruitment Line: (503) 695-3740

Local AmeriCorps Program Gets Things Done

*Recruitment for new Members currently under way

Since September 1994, the 90 Members of the Northwest Service Academy have volunteered, collectively, more than 150,000 hours of service. As a result of joining efforts with students, project sponsors, and other volunteer organizations, we have met a number of critical needs in the natural and urban environments.

In the community, we restored a section of Kelly Creek in Gresham, assisted with the renovation of the Andrea Lee Transitional Shelter for women and children leaving domestic violence, led rides with teams of children from low-income neighborhoods who have joined the Nike Ride Club, helped to build homes with Habitat for Humanity, and assisted with Project Second Wind, Oregon Food Bank's canned food drive. Along with the Neighborhood Green Corps, we constructed a community garden for the Sabin neighborhood and educated residents of northeast Portland about the dangers and prevention of lead poisoning.

On national forest lands, we helped to implement the President's forest plan by obliterating logging roads, gathering critical, scientific data through snag analysis, and revegetating riparian and upland areas. For instance, we planted more than 32,000 trees to be harvested as Christmas trees in the Bonneville Power Administration's power line corridor in an effort to convert to less harmful management practices which historically had included clearcutting and spraying. We also dispatched Members after the Wenatchee fires to assist with restoration and erosion-control efforts.

In the classrooms, we reached thousands of students. The schoolyard of George Middle School has been naturerescaped to attract migratory, neotropical birds. Floyd Light Middle School and the surrounding neighborhood have a new nature trail. Students of Shumway Middle School in Vancouver, Washington cleaned up a wetlands area near Kiggins Bowl which will be used as a living science laboratory. Students of Binnsmead Middle School developed a land management plan for a tree farm in Beaver Creek. Eight hundred students played The Salmon Life Cycle game, developed by a team of Members in cooperation with the US Forest Service for the Washington Park Zoo. Fifteen hundred students visited the banks of the Salmon River in the Wildwood Recreation Area to learn about watersheds, salmon, and methods of data collection and analysis. Another 1,500 students were visited in their classrooms and taught subjects ranging from worm-bin composting to fire ecology.

Currently, the Northwest Service Academy is recruiting approximately 100 new Members for the 1995-96 service year. Applications may be submitted to the Metro Center, with headquarters in Troutdale, and the Mt. Adams Center, with headquarters in Trout Lake, Washington. If they choose, Members of the Mt. Adams Center may live in dormitories located on the grounds of the Ranger Station. Members will receive a weekly stipend of \$156.00, and Members who successfully complete one year of service with the Academy will receive an educational award of \$4,725.00. Each full-time Academy Member will be eligible for basic health insurance, a limited childcare allowance (if qualified), and three weeks of vacation following an academic calendar.

Those who are 18 years of age or older and nationals or lawful permanent residents of the United States are eligible. Individuals who are committed to improving their communities and the environment, who are capable of self-direction and teamwork, and who are willing to make a difference and to be challenged are encouraged to apply now. Call the recruiting line at 503/695-3740.

Metro Center:

31520 SE Woodard Road
Troutdale, Oregon 97060
(503) 695-3739
FAX 15031 695-2296

Mt. Adams Center:

Trout Lake, Washington 98650
(509) 395-3169
FAX (509) 395-3365

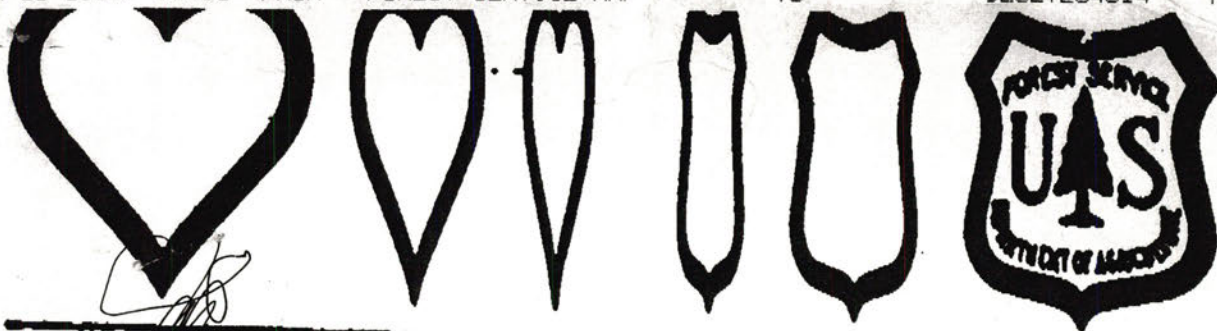
NWSA Got things done!!!!

In 1994-95 NWSA Teams at Mt. Adams working in the Mid-Columbia basin:

- Built 14,605 feet of riparian fencing
- Planted 4,735 trees
- Planted 5,000 shrubs
- Built 6 1/3 miles of trail
- Cleared 7 acres of noxious weeds
- Rehabilitated 31 acres of eroded area
- Surveyed 465 miles of roads
- Cleaned and brushed 150 miles of roads and trails
- Pruned 24 acres of trees
- Built 5 community gardens
- Joined 33 community based non profits and sponsors to accomplish over \$215,763 in work!

In 1994-95 NWSA Teams at Metro Center working in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area:

- Worked side by side with over 7,600 community volunteers and school age youth
- Partnered with 58 community based non profits organizations and agencies
 - To teach children in over 30 grade and middle schools
 - To rehabilitate over 43 low income housing units
 - To construct one shelter for domestic violence serving up to 24 people
 - To impact hundreds of homeless through service projects in four homeless shelters
- To aid thousand more low income families through projects supporting the Oregon Food Bank
- Planted 33,000 trees
- Planted 2,500 shrubs
- Built 2 1/4 miles of trail
- Cleaned and brushed 30 miles of roads and trails
- Helped build two of the largest community playgrounds in the State of Oregon
- Built 9 community gardens
- Seeded and obliterated 32 miles of forest roads
- Rehabilitated 61 forest camping sites
- Restored 30 acres of silver salmon spawning beds along the Clackamas river
- Renewed 20 acres of elk forage
- Used traditional practices to restore 8 acres of native American huckleberry fields



Human Resource Programs

The "Heart" of the Forest Service • Building a Better Tomorrow

FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

DATE: 8.8.95

NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

RECEIVER: Joel Berg

AGENCY NAME: Natl Service Program - USDA

OFFICE PHONE: 202 720 6350

FAX NUMBER: 202 720 4614

REMARKS: as we discussed - we are walking thru
our review and can incorporate
suggestion you may have

SENDER NAME: Irv Thomas

AGENCY NAME: USDA FOREST SERVICE, HUMAN RESOURCE PROGRAMS

OFFICE PHONE: 8831
(703) 235-8834

FAX NUMBER: (703) 235-1597

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: *

Date:

Sohky

Not RP Program

- RPT
Ghaht

AmeriCorps is authorized by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-82), and administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Department of Agriculture is involved in all three of the AmeriCorps programs with about 1,200 members. The AmeriCorps programs include: 1) Anti-Hunger, Nutrition and Empowerment; 2) Rural Development; and 3) Public Lands and Environment.

The FS is involved in the Rural Development and Public Lands and Environment programs. The Rural Development program assisted rural communities in development of housing, running water, and economic diversification, in responding to disasters and repairing environmental damage. Under the Public Lands and Environmental program, AmeriCorps helped communities reduce environmental hazards and work on public lands to conserve, restore, and sustain natural ecosystems.

The FS planned a \$10 million AmeriCorps program in 1995. That provided for enrolling 355 members in FY 1995. The FS enrolled 281 members in the Public Lands and Environmental Corps through the NFS program, and 74 members in the Rural Development Team (RDT) Corps through the S&PF program.

The FS proposed a \$6 million program from the NFS appropriation. While additional funding was not provided in 1995, the FS directed work to the AmeriCorps program which would have been performed through contracts or which would not have otherwise been done.

A program of \$4 million was proposed to be carried out through the S&PF appropriation for the AmeriCorps Rural Development program. To carry out this program the FS proposed both a reprogramming within the S&PF appropriation and a transfer of funds from the NFS to the S&PF appropriation.

A reprogramming of \$1.82 million of FY 1995 S&PF funds, \$441,000 from the Urban and Community Forestry EBLI and \$741,000 from the Forest Stewardship EBLI to the Economic Action Program EBLI was proposed. An additional \$818,000 of S&PF funds was also to be used in support of the program in the EBLI's in which appropriated.

Additionally, the FS proposed to transfer \$2 million of National Forest System FY 1994 unobligated carryover funds to the S&PF account in the Economic Action Programs EBLI in support of the AmeriCorps program.

The FS proposed to transfer \$3.2 million of FY 1994 unobligated carryover

+ Site P 5

FOREST
PRESERVATION

funds in the NFS appropriation account to the Research appropriation account (\$1 million) and the S&PF appropriation account (\$2.2 million).

The \$1 million proposed for transfer to Research was used to support ecosystem assessments of the Southern Appalachian ecosystem (\$125,000) and the Columbia River/Upper Columbia River Basin (\$875,000). These projects produce information critical to revising land management plans for several national forests.

If allowed to do so by Congress the Forest Service is planning a \$10 million AmeriCorps Program for FY 1996 that provides for enrolling 550 members in FY 1996. The Forest Service plans to enroll 525 members in the Public Lands and Environmental Corps through the NFS program and 25 members in the Rural Development Team (RDT) Corps through the S&PF program.

The FS proposes a \$9.5 million program from the NFS appropriation. While additional funding was not provided in 1995, and is not expected in 1996; the FS will redirect work to the AmeriCorps program which would not otherwise be done (or done by contract). The Forest Service is using AmeriCorps as a delivery mechanism to perform work. Since AmeriCorps members perform far more work per dollar than the same work performed through routine means, the Forest Service is able to complete a greater volume of work. After the first 6 months of operation AmeriCorps Members performed at least \$1.51 worth of service for each \$1.00 the American tax payer spends to support such a service.

The planned 1996 FS AmeriCorps Program calls for the shift of a large portion of the 1995 Rural Development Team Program to the Public Lands and Environmental Corps Program. \$500,000 was planned for the Rural Development Team program in FY 1996. To carry out this program the FS proposes both a reprogramming within the S&PF appropriation and a transfer of funds from the NFS to the S&PF appropriation.

By increasing funding from non-forest service partners, by reducing overhead costs, and by transferring AmeriCorps slots to the project type in which members earn a lower living stipend, a 1996 Forest Service AmeriCorps program would be able to fund more AmeriCorps Members for the same level of spending.

A reprogramming of 9.5 million of FY 1996 FS EBLI funds for use in a 1996 AmeriCorps Program is proposed. (in thousands) Trail Construction (CNTR) 628 --- Anadromous Fish (NFAF) 400 --- Inland Fish Ops (NFIF) 324 --- T&E HAB Imp. (NFTE) 711 --- Wildlife HAB. IM (NFWL) 832 --- Recreation Mgt. (NFRM) 4,353 --- Soil/Water Res (NFSI) 77 --- Range veg mgt. (NFRV) 102 --- Reforestation (NFFV) 750 --- CWKV-620 --- BDBD -/30 --- NFLL-24 --- NFRD-63 --- NFRG-62 --- The Proposed Rural / Development Team AmeriCorps Program for 1996 would be from reprogramming 500 in Economic Action (SPEP).

REPRODUCTION
PRESERVATION



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

THROUGH: James R. Lyons
Under Secretary, NRE

FROM: Jack Ward Thomas *JWT* MAY 02 1996
Chief

SUBJECT: Reprogramming for the AmeriCorps National Service Program

ISSUE:

The Forest Service (FS) is proposing to reprogram \$4.88 million in National Forest System (NFS) and related funds and \$0.36 million in State and Private Forestry (S&PF) funds to carry out an AmeriCorps National Service program in fiscal year (FY) 1996.

The FS originally proposed to reprogram \$9.4 million for a 1996 AmeriCorps program. The current proposal of \$5.2 million is based on our field units' assessment of their ability to utilize AmeriCorps members during the remaining field season.

BACKGROUND:

Section 312 of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-134), prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps programs unless the relevant agencies of the Department of the Interior and/or Agriculture follows "appropriate reprogramming guidelines." Further, section 312 prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps programs "if no funds are provided for the AmeriCorps program by the Department of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD), and Independent Agencies' FY 1996 appropriations bill." Public Law 104-134 does provide funding for AmeriCorps under VA-HUD.

AmeriCorps is authorized by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-82). The Act further establishes a "Public Lands Corps" in the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior.

The FS ran a Public Lands Corps in FY 1995 through which 297 AmeriCorps members on national forest land in eight states performed rehabilitation and watershed protection work, reforested fire-damaged lands, constructed and maintained trails for hiking and horseback riding, planted cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations, maintained and rehabilitated campgrounds, made campgrounds accessible for people with disabilities, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.



The FS also ran a Rural Development Team in FY 1995 through which 86 AmeriCorps members in 16 States worked on projects related to areas such as running water and indoor plumbing, emergency response and prevention, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, tourism promotion, water quality protection, recycling promotion, cultural resource preservation, and relocation of residents of flood plains.

The FS is proposing to carry out a program very similar to the 1995 program, but at a reduced level. The program level is based on our field units' assessment of their ability to utilize AmeriCorps members during the remaining field season. The FS is using AmeriCorps as a delivery mechanism to perform work. While additional funding was not provided in FY 1995 and is not expected in 1996, the FS will redirect work to the AmeriCorps program which would have been accomplished by other means.

The FS is planning a \$5.2 million AmeriCorps program for FY 1996 that provides for enrolling 410 members. This would include 385 members in the Public Lands Corps through the NFS program and 25 members in the Rural Development Team through the S&PF program. Most members would be enrolled in part-time slots.

The following reprogramming of FY 1996 Forest Service funds to the AmeriCorps program is requested:

	<u>Thousands \$</u>
National Forest System and Related Funds:	
Recreation Management	2,486
Wilderness Management	97
Wildlife Habitat Management	435
Inland Fish Habitat Management	179
Anadromous Fish Habitat Management	127
Threatened and Endangered Sensitive Species Habitat Management	251
Grazing Management	46
Rangeland Vegetation Management	70
Timber Sales Administration	16
Forestland Vegetation Management	420
Watershed Improvement	81
Real Estate Management	16
Land Line Location	8
Road Maintenance	63
Facility Maintenance	66
Forest Trail Construction	174
Brush Disposal	15
Cooperative Work-KV	<u>338</u>
Subtotal	4,888
Rural Development Team Program:	
Economic Action	<u>355</u>
Total, AmeriCorps Program	5,243

OPTIONS:

1. Approve and forward the reprogramming proposal as submitted.
2. Modify or adjust the reprogramming proposal and submit accordingly.
3. Disapprove the reprogramming proposal in total.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1 is recommended.

DECISION BY THE SECRETARY

Approve _____ Date _____

Disapprove _____

Discuss with me _____

Enclosures

Reviewed by: _____

FY 1996 AMERICORPS PROGRAM

	1996 Pres Budget			June 1 Startup		
	FT	PT		FT	PT	
NFS	Slots		Funding	Slots		Funding
Region 1	10	20	207.7	0	0	0.0
Region 2	2	20	207.7	0	0	0.0
Region 4	<u>0</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>487.3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>414.0</u>
Greater Yellowstone	12	80	902.7	0	40	414.0
<u>Region 3</u>						
NF in Arizona	20	0	533.5	0	20	266.0
<u>Region 4</u>						
Ashley	10	10	266.8	0	14	180.0
<u>Region 5</u>						
Six Rivers	37	0	638.8	0	27	320.0
Sequoia	18	0	280.0	0	20	280.0
San Bernardino	<u>105</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,512.0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>1,106.0</u>
TOTAL	160	0	2,430.8	0	152	1,706.0
<u>Region 6</u>						
Olympic	35	0	772.1	0	0	0.0
Rogue River	35	0	756.8	0	22	250.0
Two Mountain (NWSA)	<u>34</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>371.0</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>371.0</u>
TOTAL	104	0	1,899.9	34	22	621.0
<u>Region 8</u>						
Daniel Boone	20	0	366.0	0	7	121.0
Chattahoochee-Oconee	25	0	540.6	0	8	178.0
Greater Jackson MS	20	0	381.4	0	7	126.0
NF in North Carolina	<u>30</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>631.9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>209.0</u>
TOTAL	95	0	1,919.9	0	32	634.0
<u>Region 9</u>						
Green Mountain	20	0	390.0	0	35	390.0
White Mountain	0	36	427.2	0	36	427.2
WO Administration	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>129.2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>129.2</u>
Total NFS	421	126	8,900.0	34	351	4,767.4
<u>STATE & PRIVATE</u>						
<u>Northeastern Area</u>						
West Virginia	4	0	56.7	4	0	56.7
Minnesota	7	0	99.2	7	0	99.2
<u>4-Corners</u>						
R2 (CO)	3	0	30.0	0	2	30.0
R3 (AZ, NM)	2	0	20.0	2	0	20.0
R4 (UT)	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30.0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30.0</u>
Total	8	0	80.0	5	2	80.0
<u>Southern</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>264.1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>110.9</u>
Total, S&PF	36	0	500.0	16	9	346.8
USDA Admin						<u>128.4</u>
Total FS	457	126	9,400.0	50	360	5,242.6

Honorable Sidney R. Yates
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Agriculture's (USDA) proposes to reprogram Forest Service (FS) funds in fiscal year (FY) 1996 for the AmeriCorps programs. Section 312 of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-134), prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps programs unless the relevant agencies of the Department of the Interior and/or Agriculture follows "appropriate reprogramming guidelines." Further, section 312 prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps programs "if no funds are provided for the AmeriCorps program by the Department of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD), and Independent Agencies' FY 1996 appropriations bill." Public Law 104-134 does provide funding for AmeriCorps under VA-HUD.

In accordance with section 312, we are proposing to reprogram ²⁴ \$5.42 million from various National Forest System (NFS) and related funds and State and Private Forestry (S&PF) funds to carry out authorized FS work projects through the AmeriCorps national service program in FY 1996.

The FS ran a Public Lands Corps in FY 1995 through which 297 AmeriCorps members on national forest land in eight states performed rehabilitation and watershed protection work, reforested fire-damaged lands, constructed and maintained trails for hiking and horseback riding, planted cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations, maintained and rehabilitated campgrounds, made campgrounds accessible for people with disabilities, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.

The FS also ran a Rural Development Team in FY 1995 through which 86 AmeriCorps members in 16 States worked on projects related to areas such as running water and indoor plumbing, emergency response and prevention, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, tourism promotion, water quality protection, recycling promotion, cultural resource preservation, and relocation of residents of flood plains.

FS AmeriCorps members are getting things done and providing vital services, while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunities, and encouraging personal responsibility.

The FS is proposing to carry out a program very similar to the 1995 program, but at a reduced level. The program level is based upon field units' assessment of their ability to utilize AmeriCorps members during the remaining

DRAFT

drafted
7/1

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1800/6520

Date:

Route To :

Subject: Fiscal Year 1996 AmeriCorps Program

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director,
and IITF Director

You are aware of the developments up to this time related to the start up of the Fiscal Year (FY) 1996 AmeriCorps program. You have been very patient in responding to all requests for information and being in a "holding" position. However, we regret that we will not be able to conduct a FY 1996 AmeriCorps program.

The Forest Service proposed a reprogramming for the AmeriCorps program as directed by Congressional action on the FY 1996 Appropriations Act. This proposal was not agreed to by the House Subcommittee on Appropriations. Consequently, we will not be able to carry out a program in 1996. The House suggests using challenge-cost share opportunities as an alternate approach to stretching our scarce Federal multiple-use dollars, in lieu of the returns on investment experienced through AmeriCorps. Therefore, the funds that otherwise would have been used for AmeriCorps should be used to accomplish program objectives with emphasis on challenge-cost shares where feasible.

For FY 1996, we had planned a Public Land Corps component, funded from the National Forest System and related funds, to maintain and construct trails; maintain, rehabilitate, and construct campgrounds, picnic areas, and other developed recreation sites; maintain and improve habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive plant and animal species; maintain and improve fish and wildlife habitat; and provide environmental ecosystem management education to local school systems. With the Rural Development component, funded from State and Private Forestry funds, we had planned to work on projects related to areas such as running water and indoor plumbing, emergency response and prevention, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education, water quality protection, recycling promotion, and cultural resource preservation.

For FY 1997, \$8.9 million has been set aside as a National Commitment. It is our expectation that Congressional action in 1997 will continue the 1996 direction regarding reprogramming. We will comply with whatever direction is agreed upon and plan to operate a program. For FY 1997, we are expecting to operate a Public Land Corps program similar to the one proposed for 1996 program, up to \$8.9 million. The Rural Development component is not planned for FY 1997.

Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director,
and IITF Director

2

You need to inform everyone involved in the AmeriCorps program about this outcome. This will no doubt be a disappointment to our potential AmeriCorps members, as well as our private partners and cooperators. I wish to thank you and everyone who worked so hard in preparing for the FY 1996 AmeriCorps program.

JACK WARD THOMAS
Chief

cc:
WO Staff

July 11, 1996

AMERICORPS COMMUNICATION PLAN

Issue:

Congress has denied a Forest Service request to reprogram \$5.2 million to fund Agency AmeriCorps projects in FY 1996. As a result, the Forest Service will not operate an AmeriCorps program this fiscal year.

Objectives:

Inform field units of lack of funding for AmeriCorps programs and to cease operations in support of planned FY 1996 projects.

Inform partners of our lack of AmeriCorps funding, our inability to participate in AmeriCorps projects this year, and appreciation for the time and effort already expended in planning for the program.

Key Messages:

Due to lack of congressional funding the Forest Service will not operate an AmeriCorps program this year.

Forest Service people appreciate the hard work of partners in planning for AmeriCorps projects and regrets the inability to carry them out this year.

Where feasible, the Forest Service will use money set aside for AmeriCorps to fund challenge cost share projects to accomplish program objectives.

The Forest Service plans to set aside \$8.9 million to support AmeriCorps projects in FY 1997. ~~However, we anticipate that Congress may once again require that we submit a request for reprogramming FY 1997 funds to expend for AmeriCorps.~~

Actions:

The Forest Service intends to take the following action in response to the disapproval of our request to reprogram resources to operate an AmeriCorps Program in FY 1996:

--Initiate official correspondence from the Chief to the Forest Service Field Units informing them of our inability to operate an AmeriCorps program in FY 1996 and to express our appreciation for the Field Units' efforts and continuous commitment, especially those employees working at the project level within the organization;

--Advise Field Units to personally express our sincere appreciation to our local partners and organizations, elected officials, and community leaders for their efforts and continuous support over the last several months. Contacts can be made through letters and personal phone calls.

REVISED DRAFT LETTER TO FOREST SERVICE FIELD STAFF

July 22, 1996

To: Forest Service AmeriCorps Project Managers and Partner Organizations

Through: Jack Ward Thomas, Chief

Through: Jim Lyons, Under Secretary, NRE

From: Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture

I regret to inform you that Congress has prohibited the Forest Service from directly sponsoring AmeriCorps projects in the remainder of this Fiscal Year (FY) 1996. However, I want to assure you that the Department will take every possible step to obtain bi-partisan support to begin new, year-long, Forest Service AmeriCorps projects beginning this October with FY 1997 funds.

Moreover, I want to thank you for your tremendous effort and patience in implementing AmeriCorps last year ---- and in attempting to implement AmeriCorps this year. You have exemplified the best of public service through your efforts to reinvent government by creating AmeriCorps projects that "get things done" on Forest Service lands and in rural communities. I am thus proud to have given honor awards this year to some of the most outstanding Forest Service employees involved in creating this program.

As you are aware, the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year) was extremely effective. In the first year, AmeriCorps Members serving on Public Lands teams in National Forests:

- * Constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trail.
- * Achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement; built 133 structures to shelter or protect wildlife; built 296 nesting boxes; and constructed a threatened and endangered plant greenhouse.
- * Improved 668 acres of timber stand.
- * Built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites.
- * Reforested 638 acres of land.
- * Prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities.
- * Improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat.

- * Constructed 86 miles of new fence.
- * Maintained 18 miles of vehicle trails to keep them free of obstructive growth and slides.
- * Improved watersheds damaged by fire by cutting and planting 92,500 willows in riparian areas.
- * Improved Forest Service road and safety conditions ---- by "day lighting" 50 curves.
- * Released 775,000 salmon fry in a fish stocking operation.
- * Constructed a major visitor information center.
- * Provided conservation education to 8,373 students K-12.

Also in the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year), AmeriCorps Members serving in Rural Development teams in rural communities:

- * Promoted alternative energy sources and wood technologies.
- * Improved emergency response and prevention.
- * Helped home owners relocate from a flood plain.
- * Provided environmental and conservation education to school children.
- * Helped design and construct timber bridges.
- * Developed and implemented municipal recycling initiatives.
- * Created plans for improving local recreational areas.
- * Helped implement historic, scenic, and tourism trails.

Unfortunately, because the Forest Service was repeatedly funded this year through continuing resolutions, and because a final FY 1996 Interior Appropriations Bill was not agreed to by Congress and the President until Spring of this year, many projects planned by the Forest Service --- including AmeriCorps ---- were negatively impacted. We especially regret that the AmeriCorps program had so many "false starts" this year. I can only imagine the frustration you must have endured.

However, I am extremely encouraged that recent votes in both the House and the Senate have demonstrated growing bi-partisan support for the overall AmeriCorps program. I believe that close scrutiny will demonstrate that the portion of AmeriCorps managed by the Forest Service was responsible for some of the highest quality projects in the entire AmeriCorps program.

Therefore, we expect to soon submit an AmeriCorps reprogramming letter for FY 1997, for which we are extremely hopeful that we will receive bi-partisan support from the Interior appropriations sub-committees in both Houses.

We will keep you apprised of the progress of the program. I thank you once again for all your efforts.

REVISED DRAFT EXAMPLE LETTER TO SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN

The Honorable James Jeffords
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Jeffords:

I regret to inform you that, because the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress have denied the Department's request to reprogram Fiscal year (FY) 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps, USDA has been forced to cancel the AmeriCorps program that was planned in Vermont on the Green Mountain National Forest for this year.

However, I want to assure you that the Department will take every possible step to obtain bipartisan support to begin a new, year-long, Forest Service AmeriCorps program beginning this October with funds from FY 1997.

This program in Vermont would have engaged 20 citizens --- most of whom would have been from the state --- as AmeriCorps members performing critical work on the Forest clearing and restoring trails, rehabilitating and cleaning campground sites, protecting wildlife, improving timber stands, providing environmental education services to local school, improving fisheries, and preserving historic sites. All the AmeriCorps Members who successfully completed the program --- most of whom would have been from middle class families --- would have received educational awards worth \$4,725 to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back existing student loans.

It is unfortunate that the people of Vermont will not be able to benefit from such service and that possible participants will not be able to aid their own post-secondary educations.

Nationally, Forest Service AmeriCorps projects in the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year) achieved impressive results. In Public Lands teams serving directly in National Forests, USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * Constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trail.
- * Achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement; built 133 structures to shelter or protect wildlife; built 296 nesting boxes; and constructed a threatened and endangered plant greenhouse.
- * Improved 668 acres of timber stand.
- * Built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites.

- * Reforested 638 acres of land.
- * Prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities.
- * Improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat.
- * Constructed 86 miles of new fence.
- * Maintained 18 miles of vehicle trails to keep them free of obstructive growth and slides.
- * Improved watersheds damaged by fire by cutting and planting 92,500 willows in riparian areas.
- * Improved Forest Service road and safety conditions ---- by "day lighting" 50 curves.
- * Released 775,000 salmon fry in a fish stocking operation.
- * Constructed a major visitor information center.
- * Provided conservation education to 88,373 students K- 12.

Also in the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year), AmeriCorps Members serving in Rural Development teams in local communities:

- * Promoted alternative energy sources and wood technologies.
- * Improved emergency response and prevention.
- * Helped home owners relocate from a flood plain.
- * Provided environmental and conservation education to school children.
- * Helped design and construct timber bridges.
- * Developed and implemented municipal recycling initiatives.
- * Created plans for improving local recreational areas.
- * Helped implement historic, scenic, and tourism trails.

In order to start the second program year of Forest Service AmeriCorps projects, we took every possible effort to obtain bi-partisan Congressional support. In both February and May, I wrote letters to Senator Slade Gorton and Congressman Regula, the Senate and House chair people, respectively, of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Interior. Unfortunately, both requests were denied.

However, I am encouraged that recent votes in both the House and the Senate have demonstrated growing bi-partisan support for the overall AmeriCorps program. I believe that close scrutiny will demonstrate that the portion of AmeriCorps managed by the Forest Service was responsible for some of the highest quality projects in the entire AmeriCorps program.

Therefore, we expect to soon submit an AmeriCorps reprogramming letter for FY 1997, for which we are extremely hopeful that we will receive bi-partisan support from the Interior appropriations sub-committees in both Houses.

I hope I can have your support in requesting the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees to support our upcoming reprogramming request. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact me or Joel Berg, Director of National Service for USDA, at (202) 720-5746. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Dan Glickman
Secretary

REVISED DRAFT NATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Joel Berg, (202) 720-5746

CONGRESS CANCELS FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 19 STATES

Congress has canceled the AmeriCorps national service program planned for this year that would have engaged 683 participants in projects on National Forests in 19 states, announced U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman today.

The program was canceled because Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress have denied the Department's request to reprogram Fiscal Year 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps. However, Glickman expressed his desire to work with Congress to obtain bi-partisan support to begin a new, year-long, Forest Service AmeriCorps projects nationally beginning this October.

The Forest Service AmeriCorps projects would have engaged AmeriCorps Members in work on forests building and restoring trails, rehabilitating campground sites, fighting forest fires, making recreation areas accessible for the disabled, protecting habitats for endangered and threatened species, improving timber stands, boosting rural development, providing environmental education services to local school, and preserving historic sites. AmeriCorps Members who successfully completed a full term of service would have received educational awards worth \$4,725 to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back existing student loans.

"It is unfortunate that the people of the United States will not be able to benefit from critical services that AmeriCorps Members would have performed on national forests. It is also unfortunate that potential participants in the program will not be able to aid their own post-secondary educations," said Glickman, who oversees the United States Forest Service. Given that Congress has recently taken bi-partisan steps to work with the President to preserve the entire AmeriCorps program, I hope we can reach bi-partisan agreement to continue AmeriCorps projects on national forests starting this Fall," said Glickman, who oversees the U.S. Forest Service.

Forest service AmeriCorps projects were planned for Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

AmeriCorps is the President's domestic national service program, authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1993, which allows Americans of all backgrounds to perform community service in exchange for educational benefits. While most AmeriCorps projects are not run by Federal agencies, USDA manages a small portion of AmeriCorps focused nationally on rural development, environmental protection, and anti-hunger work, most of which were allowed by Congress to continue this year. All USDA AmeriCorps projects are designed to "get things done" while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and promoting personal responsibility.

Nationally, in the first program year (1994-1995) in which the Forest Service did operate projects, AmeriCorps Members nationally constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trail, achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat enhancement, improved 668 acres of timber stand, built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites, reforested 638 acres of land, prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities, improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat, and provided conservation education to 8,373 public school students.

Also in the first year of the program --- in rural development projects implemented nationally by the Forest Service --- AmeriCorps Members promoted alternative energy sources and wood technologies, improved emergency response and prevention, helped home owners relocate from a flood plain, and developed and implemented municipal recycling initiatives.

###

REVISED DRAFT STATE PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Joel Berg, (202) 720-5746

CONGRESS CANCELS VERMONT AMERICORPS PROJECT ON GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Congress has canceled the AmeriCorps national service program planned for this year on the Green Mountain National Forest, announced U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman today.

The program was canceled because Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress have denied the Department's request to reprogram Fiscal Year 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps. However, Glickman expressed his desire to work with Congress to obtain bi-partisan support to begin a new, year-long, Forest Service AmeriCorps project in Vermont beginning this October.

The Vermont program would have engaged 20 local citizens as AmeriCorps members performing critical work on the Forest clearing and restoring trails, rehabilitating and cleaning campground sites, protecting wildlife, improving timber stands, providing environmental education services to local schools, improving fisheries, and preserving historic sites. All the AmeriCorps Members who successfully completed the program would have received educational awards worth \$4,725 to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back existing student loans.

"It is unfortunate that the people of Vermont will not be able to benefit from critical services that AmeriCorps Members would have performed in the Green Mountain National Forest. It is also unfortunate that potential participants in the program will not be able to aid their own post-secondary educations," said Glickman, who oversees the United States Forest Service. "Given that Congress has recently taken bi-partisan steps to work with the President to preserve the entire AmeriCorps program, I hope we can reach bi-partisan agreement to continue AmeriCorps projects on national forests starting this Fall."

AmeriCorps is the President's domestic national service program, authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1993, which allows American's of all backgrounds to perform community service in exchange for educational benefits. While most AmeriCorps projects are not run by Federal agencies, USDA manages a small portion of AmeriCorps focused nationally on rural development, environmental protection, and anti-hunger work. All USDA AmeriCorps projects are designed to "get things done" while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and promoting personal responsibility.

USDA currently sponsors both anti-hunger and rural development AmeriCorps projects in Vermont, which were allowed to continue by Congress.

Nationally, in the first program year (1994-1995) in which the Forest Service did operate projects, AmeriCorps Members constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trail, achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, improved 668 acres of timber stand, built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites, reforested 638 acres of land, prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities, improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat, and provided conservation education to 8,373 public school students..

Also in the first year of the program, in rural development projects implemented nationally by the Forest Service AmeriCorps Members promoted alternative energy sources and wood technologies, improved emergency response and prevention, helped home owners relocate from a flood plain, and developed and implemented municipal recycling initiatives.

###