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Subgroup/Office of Origin: Americorps

Series/Staff Member: General Files

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 24235

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Folder Title:

USDA [Department of Agriculture]/Americorps - Forest Service 3

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Row:
66

Section:
1

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7

Position:
3

To: Martha Phipps, Brian Burke, Stephanie Hague, David Carlin, Anthony Haynes, Tom Amontree, Jim Petterson, Katherine Gibney

From: Joel Berg 

Subject: **Suggested Forest Service AmeriCorps Strategy**

I have reviewed a copy of the memo that the Forest Service is proposing to send to the field in the event that the Secretary decides to cancel this year's AmeriCorps program. I would recommend that the letter is not approved and that, rather, the Secretary himself send a letter. A draft letter is attached.

I have also reviewed the "communications plan" that the Forest Service prepared to explain why the program is being canceled. The Forest Service-prepared plan is simply a one-page explanation of how the Forest Service will contact its field and select interest groups. I would suggest a much broader communications plan consisting of five parts:

- 1) We send a letter to all Senators and Congresspeople in which sites would have been located; a draft letter is attached.
- 2) We distribute a national press release; a draft release is attached. We might want to consider whether a quote from the President and/or the Vice-President should be added to such a release.
- 3) We distribute localized press releases for each state; a sample draft release is attached
- 4) We make a series of comprehensive phone calls to newspaper reporters, editorial boards, television stations, radio stations, and affected youth service groups. These calls would explain in detail why the program was canceled.
- 5) We try to arrange meetings between Brian Burke and myself and the key Interior appropriations staff in the House and the Senate to attempt to reach agreement for next year.

Such a strategy would not only hold Congress responsible for killing the program this year, but would, in my judgment, significantly increase the possibility that we can work out an agreement to start the program up again in FY 1997. Our goal should be to start the program by October 25th, the date set by the White House for the third year launch of AmeriCorps.

"If you look at what this national service project does --- they're working in the San Bernadino National Forest; people who are helping to clean-up the forest, maintain it, strengthen it, keep it there for our children and our grandchildren, make sure it's an important resource... These are the kinds of things that are going on all over America, and I think it emphasizes what I'm saying. For a small amount of federal money we have increased opportunity with no bureacracy. This is all done at the grass-roots level."

**President Clinton in San Bernardino,
California on February 14**

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**President Clinton in San Bernardino,
California on February 14**



*Good Beg-
For your information. P.m.*

June 7, 1995

Patrick Atagi
Office of Senator Hatfield
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Atagi:

Northwest Youth Corps is a non-profit conservation corps program. We currently operate two residential AmeriCorps programs in conjunction with USDA Forest Service. These programs, one near Medford in southern Oregon and one in Port Townsend on the tip of the Olympic Peninsula, each provide an opportunity for 35 AmeriCorps members to serve their country.

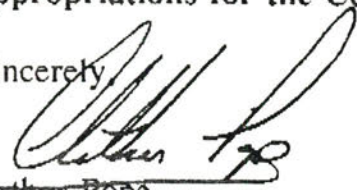
AmeriCorps members in these programs are accomplishing vital reforestation, recreation and conservation projects for the Forest Service; projects that would not be otherwise possible. Members have enhanced recreational opportunities that address the needs of local communities and promote tourism. They have worked on reforestation projects that promote jobs and economic development. And they have addressed conservation issues vital to the health and well-being of our national forests.

These two USDA AmeriCorps programs are prime examples of federal/non-profit AmeriCorps partnerships that leverage additional funds. The only AmeriCorps funding dedicated to these USDA sponsored programs supports member tuition vouchers. This minimal funding has leveraged substantial support from the Forest Service in addition to local community funding and matching funds from Northwest Youth Corps.

It is my understanding that Senator Bond has introduced language in the Conference Committee Rescission Report that would prohibit the Corporation for National Service from making any grant to federal agencies. This action would serve to drastically reduce the ability of the Corporation to leverage additional funds that support the participation of the maximum number of Americans in AmeriCorps programs. This action will only limit opportunities and penalize AmeriCorps members!

I respectfully request that Senator Hatfield discuss this issue with Senator Bond; that he in some way intervene to support the removal of this language from all appropriations for the Corporation for National Service.

Sincerely,


Arthur Pope
Executive Director



To: Robin Thompson

From: Joel Berg

10 PAGES, including this cover

The draft documents you requested. If approved, they will need to be revised slightly to reflect the letter from the Senate Subcommittee.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Kathy Lacey

From: Joel Berg

Feinstein

8 PAGES, including this cover

Per my discussion today with Kenneth Price in your Los Angeles office, attached is a letter from Secretary Glickman to Senator Gorton requesting a reprogramming for the Forest Service AmeriCorps program.

Approval is needed immediately in order for us to start our planned projects in California on the San Bernadino, Sequoia, and Six Rivers National Forests.

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



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Sue Masica

From: Joel Berg

6 PAGES, including this cover

Per our discussion, attached is a one-page summary of the projects accomplished by the six Forest Service AmeriCorps members in West Virginia last year and a four-page summary of the projects planned for the four Forest Service AmeriCorps members to be placed in West Virginia this year.

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

I thank you for your assistance.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Berg", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Mike Bagley

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a final flourish.

From: Joel Berg

10 PAGES, including this cover

Per our discussion, two pages of information on last year's accomplishments of our Forest Service AmeriCorps program in Congressman Dick's district, as well as reprogramming letter to Regula.

I appreciate your assistance.

If you have any questions, contact me at 202-720-5746.

MARK O. HATFIELD
SPECIAL DISTRICTS CENTER
727 CENTER STREET N.E., SUITE 305
SALEM, OREGON 97301

MARK O. HATFIELD
ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER
121 S.W. SALMON STREET, SUITE 1420
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3701

April 25, 1995

Mr. Richard Seidman
Executive Director
Friends of Trees
2730 NE Martin Luther King Boulevard
Portland, Oregon 97212

Dear Mr. Seidman:

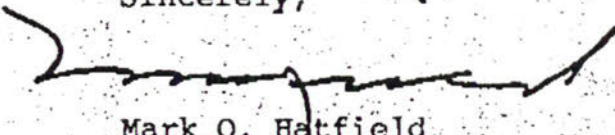
Thank you for sending me a copy of your recent letter to Joe Parvankin testifying to the importance of the AmeriCorps program in helping Friends of Trees in their tree planting projects. I appreciate having this kind of information.

Over and over again, I have heard good things about the Northwest Service Academy and the work they are doing in and around the City of Portland as well as the central Columbia Gorge area. Under the best of conditions, the AmeriCorps program is a win-win program - one which benefits both the volunteer and the community. Unfortunately, this program, like many good programs, is facing budget cuts as we try to get our fiscal house in order. At this point, it is still too early to know how this program will fare during the budget process.

Thanks again for taking the time to share your thoughts with me.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

MOH:aw



*Send Berg-
For your information.
A.M.*

June 7, 1995

Patrick Atagi
Office of Senator Hatfield
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Atagi:

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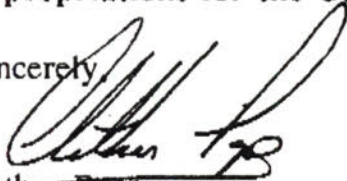
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I respectfully request that Senator Hatfield discuss this issue with Senator Bond; that he in some way intervene to support the removal of this language from all appropriations for the Corporation for National Service.

Sincerely,



Arthur Pope
Executive Director

NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS • 5120 FRANKLIN BLVD., '7A • EUGENE, OREGON 97403 • (503) 746-8653

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1995
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MARK O. HATFIELD
SPECIAL DISTRICT CLERK
727 CENTER STREET N.E., SUITE 305
SALEM, OREGON 97301

MARK O. HATFIELD
ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER
121 S.W. SALMON STREET, SUITE 1420
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3701

June 1, 1995

Mr. Jon Stewart
Academy Director
Northwest Service Academy
31520 SE Woodard Road
Troutdale, Oregon 97060

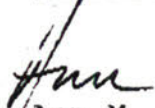
Dear Mr. Stewart:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the Academy's Second Quarter Report. The Academy's activities are indeed impressive and I appreciate having this information for our files and for future reference.

Thanks again for sending me this report and for pointing out the letter from Laura Feldman.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Warner
Field Representative

field season. The FS is using AmeriCorps as a delivery mechanism to perform work. While additional funding was not provided in FY 1996, the FS will re-direct work to the AmeriCorps program which would have been accomplished by other means. *or would otherwise not be performed.*

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 State and Private Forestry program. Most members would be enrolled in part-time slots. (See enclosure for detailed source of funds.)

I am also enclosing responses to questions asked by Congressman Regula to assist in the review of the reprogramming request.

This letter is being submitted in accordance with the arrangements and understanding that the Department has with the House and Senate Committee on Appropriations with respect to reprogramming procedures.

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

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Glickman
Secretary

DRAFT

BACKGROUND ON HOW THE NORTHWEST SERVICE ACADEMY WOULD BE SLASHED BY AMERICORPS LANGUAGE IN THE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL

This year, the USDA Forest Service spent approximately \$10 million to sponsor 364 AmeriCorps Members working in Public Lands Teams and Rural Development Teams in 38 states. In the first three quarters of the program year, these Members performed over 365,000 hours of community service. In addition, the Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps program was funded, in part, by the Forest Service and performed much of its service on Forest Service land.

Next year --- if allowed to do so by Congress --- the Forest Service will again spend \$10 million, but would greatly increase the size of the program. By further improving the cost-efficiency of the program, the Forest Service would be able to directly sponsor 434 AmeriCorps Members serving in 23 states.

Language currently in the Interior Appropriations bill passed by the House of Representatives would bar the Forest Service from spending any funds at all on AmeriCorps. However, the Interior Appropriations Bill passed by the Senate would allow the Forest Service to fund AmeriCorps programs if the Forest Service followed "appropriate reprogramming guidelines." This issue will be resolved shortly by the Interior Appropriations conference committee.

The House language would severely slash funding for the Northwest Service Academy, a AmeriCorps project on the Oregon/Washington border which Senator Hatfield has previously praised in a public letter. This House language could even prevent any AmeriCorps Members from fighting fires on National Forests.



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

February 15, 1995

To: USDA AmeriCorps Project Managers, Facilitators, and Members
From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA JB
Subject: President Clinton Specifically Praises USDA AmeriCorps Project

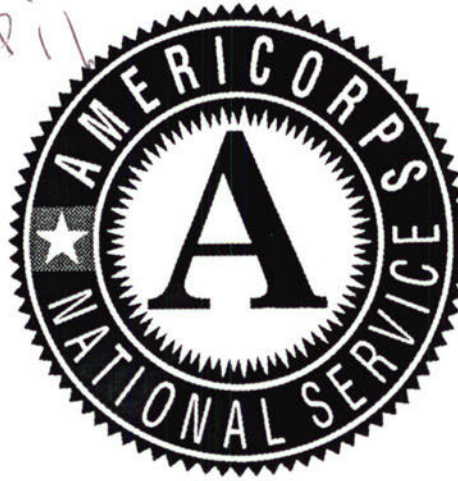
You might be interested to know that, in a speech yesterday in San Bernadino, California, President Clinton specifically praised the USDA AmeriCorps project on the San Bernadino National Forest. The ninety Members of that project attended the President's speech.

Said Clinton:

"If you look at what this national service project does --- they're working in the San Bernadino National Forest; people who are helping to clean-up the forest, maintain it, strengthen it, keep it there for our children and our grandchildren, make sure it's an important resource... These are the kinds of things that are going on all over America, and I think it emphasizes what I'm saying. For a small amount of federal money we have increased opportunity with no bureaucracy. This is all done at the grass-roots level."

I believe the President's comments are applicable to all USDA AmeriCorps projects. Congratulations on all of your hard work and success!

Feinstein



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Kenneth Price

From: Joel Berg

8 PAGES, including this cover

Per our discussion, attached is the Forest Service AmeriCorps reprogramming letter. I will follow-up with Kathy Lacey.

Any questions, please call me at (202) 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Gene Sofer, Hank Oltman, Jay Toscano

From: Joel Berg

12 PAGES, including this cover

FYI, updated information on what we are planning to do regarding our Forest Service projects.

Gene: I have scheduled a meeting between you, me, and our Congressional affairs staff for Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. here. Let me know if that is ok.

Jay: Please review the draft press releases.

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

To: Martha Phipps, Brian Burke, Stephanie Hague, David Carlin, Anthony Haynes,
Tom Amontree, Jim Petterson, Katherine Gibney

From: Joel Berg 

Subject: **Suggested Forest Service AmeriCorps Strategy**

I have reviewed a copy of the memo that the Forest Service is proposing to send to the field in the event that the Secretary decides to cancel this year's AmeriCorps program. I would recommend that the letter is not approved and that, rather, the Secretary himself send a letter. A draft letter is attached.

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- 5) We try to arrange meetings between Brian Burke and myself and the key Interior appropriations staff in the House and the Senate to attempt to reach agreement for next year.

Such a strategy would not only hold Congress responsible for killing the program this year, but would, in my judgment, significantly increase the possibility that we can work out an agreement to start the program up again in FY 1997. Our goal should be to start the program by October 25th, the date set by the White House for the third year launch of AmeriCorps.

DRAFT LETTER TO FOREST SERVICE FIELD STAFF

July 17, 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 a 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 well aware, 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 for this year were negatively impacted. It is truly unfortunate that the AmeriCorps program had so many "false starts" this year, in which we believed we could begin the Forest Service AmeriCorps program immediately but were prevented from doing so by Congress. I can only imagine the frustration you must endured this year.

To date, we have taken every possible effort to obtain bi-partisan Congressional support for the Forest Service's portion of AmeriCorps. 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. In addition, I made personal requests on behalf of the program to both the Senator and the Congressman. While the Senate did not formally respond to either request, Congressman Regula turned down both requests near the end of each letter's 30 day response period. It is the custom of Congress to assume that a negative response to a reprogramming request from one appropriations subcommittee in one chamber of Congress holds the same weight as if both chambers formally voted to withhold the funding. Given this custom, I have directed the Forest Service to cancel this year's AmeriCorps program.

I am extremely hopeful, however, that the Interior appropriations sub-committees in both Houses will agree to our request to run a full-year Forest Service AmeriCorps program in FY 1997.

As you may be aware, there is increasing bi-partisan support in Congress for the overall AmeriCorps program. The House voted by a wide margin on June 26 to maintain AmeriCorps funding; 50 Republicans, including Mr. Regula, voted to preserve the program. Even though the House voted later that night to eliminate the program, the bi-partisan nature of the first vote demonstrates positive movement. On July 11, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed an appropriations bill providing \$402 million for the overall AmeriCorps program for FY 1997, maintaining the current level of funding.

It seems clear that the overall AmeriCorps program will be continued by Congress. As a result, we should have an easier ability to make the case for maintaining for Forest Service portion of the program, which has been particularly effective.

In the first year of the program (1994-1995 program 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 88,373 students K-12.

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.

Such efforts have received widespread praise. Senator Mark Hatfield, a Republican from Oregon, in describing the Northwest Service Academy (an AmeriCorps project in Oregon run in partnership with the Forest Service), wrote: "In addition to completing worthwhile projects, Academy participants will learn civic responsibility while serving their communities."

Wrote John M. Clise, the Mayor of Port Townsend, Oregon: "Our local AmeriCorps program was very able administered by the USFS in the Olympic National Forest division, and the work group was made available to fill some specific project needs in our city. The projects were accomplished by this hard-working, energetic group of young people ... We believe that the AmeriCorps program is an example of a successful partnership which benefits our government and citizens in multiple ways."

Given such strong bi-partisan support, I believe we can convince the key subcommittees to allow this program to continue.

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

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 bi-partisan support to begin a new, year-long, Forest Service AmeriCorps project 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 building and restoring trails, rehabilitating campground sites, making recreation areas assessable for the disabled, providing environmental education services to local school, 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.

As you are well aware, 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 for this year were negatively impacted. It is truly unfortunate that the AmeriCorps program had so many "false starts" this year, in which we believed we could begin the Forest Service AmeriCorps program immediately but were prevented from doing so by Congress.

To date, we have taken every possible effort to obtain bi-partisan Congressional support for the Forest Service's portion of AmeriCorps. 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. In addition, I made personal requests on behalf of the program to both the Senator and the Congressman. While the Senate did not formally respond to either request, Congressman Regula turned down both requests near the end of each letter's 30 day response period. As a former Member, I certainly understand that it is the custom of Congress that a negative response to a reprogramming request from one appropriations

subcommittee in one chamber of Congress holds the same weight as if both chambers formally voted to withhold the funding. Given this custom, I have directed the Forest Service to cancel this year's AmeriCorps program.

I am extremely hopeful, however, that the Interior appropriations sub-committees in both Houses will agree to our upcoming request to run a full-year Forest Service AmeriCorps program in FY 1997.

As you are aware, there is increasing bi-partisan support in Congress for the overall AmeriCorps program. Assuming that the overall AmeriCorps program is continued by Congress, I believe we have a particularly strong substantive case in requesting the continuation of the Forest Service AmeriCorps program.

In the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year), AmeriCorps Members serving in 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.
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Given this strong bi-partisan-partisan support, I hope I can have your support in requesting the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees to support our upcoming request for FY 1997. 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

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 (FY) 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 citizens --- most of whom would have been from Vermont --- as AmeriCorps members performing critical work on the forest building and restoring trails, rehabilitating campground sites, making recreation areas accessible for the disabled, providing environmental education services to local school, 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 critical services that AmeriCorps members would have performed in the Green Mountain National Forest and 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 are national forests starting this Fall," said Glickman, who oversees the U.S. Forest Service.

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.

###

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 (FY) 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 critical 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-time term of 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 the United States will not be able to benefit from critical services that AmeriCorps members would have performed on national forests and 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. All USDA AmeriCorps projects are designed to "get things done" while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and promoting personal responsibility.

###

DRAFT LETTER TO FOREST SERVICE FIELD STAFF

July 17, 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 a 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 well aware, 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 for this year were negatively impacted. It is truly unfortunate that the AmeriCorps program had so many "false starts" this year, in which we believed we could begin the Forest Service AmeriCorps program immediately but were prevented from doing so by Congress. I can only imagine the frustration you must endured this year.

To date, we have taken every possible effort to obtain bi-partisan Congressional support for the Forest Service's portion of AmeriCorps. 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. In addition, I made personal requests on behalf of the program to both the Senator and the Congressman. While the Senate did not formally respond to either request, Congressman Regula turned down both requests near the end of each letter's 30 day response period. It is the custom of Congress to assume that a negative response to a reprogramming request from one appropriations subcommittee in one chamber of Congress holds the same weight as if both chambers formally voted to withhold the funding. Given this custom, I have directed the Forest Service to cancel this year's AmeriCorps program.

I am extremely hopeful, however, that the Interior appropriations sub-committees in both Houses will agree to our request to run a full-year Forest Service AmeriCorps program in FY 1997.

As you may be aware, there is increasing bi-partisan support in Congress for the overall AmeriCorps program. The House voted by a wide margin on June 26 to maintain AmeriCorps funding; 50 Republicans, including Mr. Regula, voted to preserve the program. Even though the House voted later that night to eliminate the program, the bi-partisan nature of the first vote demonstrates positive movement. On July 11, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed an appropriations bill providing \$402 million for the overall AmeriCorps program for FY 1997, maintaining the current level of funding.

It seems clear that the overall AmeriCorps program will be continued by Congress. As a result, we should have an easier ability to make the case for maintaining for Forest Service portion of the program, which has been particularly effective.

In the first year of the program (1994-1995 program 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 88,373 students K-12.

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.

Such efforts have received widespread praise. Senator Mark Hatfield, a Republican from Oregon, in describing the Northwest Service Academy (an AmeriCorps project in Oregon run in partnership with the Forest Service), wrote: "In addition to completing worthwhile projects, Academy participants will learn civic responsibility while serving their communities."

Wrote John M. Clise, the Mayor of Port Townsend, Oregon: "Our local AmeriCorps program was very able administered by the USFS in the Olympic National Forest division, and the work group was made available to fill some specific project needs in our city. The projects were accomplished by this hard-working, energetic group of young people ... We believe that the AmeriCorps program is an example of a successful partnership which benefits our government and citizens in multiple ways."

Given such strong bi-partisan support, I believe we can convince the key subcommittees to allow this program to continue.

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

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 (FY) 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 critical 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-time term of 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 the United States will not be able to benefit from critical services that AmeriCorps members would have performed on national forests and 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. All USDA AmeriCorps projects are designed to "get things done" while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and promoting personal responsibility.

###

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. *every*

However, I want to assure you that the Department will take every possible step to obtain bi-partisan support to begin a new, year-long, Forest Service AmeriCorps project 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 building and restoring trails, rehabilitating campground sites, making recreation areas assessable for the disabled, providing environmental education services to local school, 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.

As you are well aware, because the Forest service was repeatedly funded this year through continuing resolutions, and because an 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 for this year were negatively impacted. It is truly unfortunate that the AmeriCorps program had so many "false starts" this year, in which we believed we could begin the Forest Service AmeriCorps program immediately but were prevented from doing so by Congress.

To date, we have taken every possible effort to obtain bi-partisan Congressional support for the Forest Service's portion of AmeriCorps. 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. In addition, I made personal requests on behalf of the program to both the Senator and the Congressman. While the Senate did not formally respond to either request, Congressman Regula turned down both requests near the end of each letter's 30 day response period.. As a former Member, I certainly understand that it is the custom of Congress that a negative response to a reprogramming request from one appropriations

subcommittee in one chamber of Congress holds the same weight as if both chambers formally voted to withhold the funding. Given this custom, I have directed the Forest Service to cancel this year's AmeriCorps program.

I am extremely hopeful, however, that the Interior appropriations sub-committees in both Houses will agree to our upcoming request to run a full-year Forest Service AmeriCorps program in FY 1997.

As you are aware, there is increasing bi-partisan support in Congress for the overall AmeriCorps program. Assuming that the overall AmeriCorps program is continued by Congress, I believe we have a particularly strong substantive case in requesting the continuation of the Forest Service AmeriCorps program.

In the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year), AmeriCorps Members serving in 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 8,3 7 3 students K- 1 2.

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.

Such efforts have received widespread praise. Senator Mark Hatfield, in describing the Northwest Service Academy (a project AmeriCorps project in Oregon run in partnership with the Forest Service), wrote: "In addition to completing worthwhile projects, Academy participants will learn civic responsibility while serving their communities."

Wrote John M. Clise, the Mayor of Port Townsend, Oregon: "Our local AmeriCorps program was very able administered by the USFS in the Olympic National Forest division, and the work group was made available to fill some specific project needs in our city. The projects were accomplished by this hard-working, energetic group of young people ... We believe that the AmeriCorps program is an example of a successful partnership which benefits our government and citizens in multiple ways."

Given this strong bi-partisan-partisan support, I hope I can have your support in requesting the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees to support our upcoming request for FY 1997. 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

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 (FY) 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 citizens --- most of whom would have been from Vermont --- as AmeriCorps members performing critical work on the forest building and restoring trails, rehabilitating campground sites, making recreation areas accessible for the disabled, providing environmental education services to local school, 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 critical services that AmeriCorps members would have performed in the Green Mountain National Forest and 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 in national forests starting this Fall," said Glickman, who oversees the U.S. Forest Service.

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. 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.

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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 bi-partisan 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 8 8,3 7 3 students K- 1 2.

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 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

Tom Amontree 202-720-4623
Joel Berg 202-720-5746

CONGRESS CANCELS FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 19 STATES

WASHINGTON, July xx, 1996--Congress has canceled the portion of the AmeriCorps national service program planned for this fiscal year that would have engaged 683 participants in USDA Forest Service projects in 19 states, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said today.

The program was canceled because Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress denied the U.S. Department of Agriculture's request to reprogram Fiscal Year 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps. However, Glickman expressed his desire to work with Congress to obtain bipartisan support to begin new, year-long USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps projects nationally beginning this October using FY97 funds.

The Forest Service AmeriCorps projects would have engaged AmeriCorps members in building and restoring trails, rehabilitating campground sites, fighting forest fires, making recreation areas accessible for disabled persons, protecting habitats for endangered and threatened species, improving timber stands, boosting rural development, providing environmental education services to local schools, 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 receive the beneficial 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 USDA Forest Service. "Given that Congress has recently taken bipartisan steps to work with the President to preserve the entire AmeriCorps program, I hope we can reach bipartisan agreement to continue AmeriCorps projects on national forests starting this fall."

USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps projects were planned this fiscal year 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 Forest Service's first operational program year (1994-1995), AmeriCorps members nationally constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trails, achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat enhancement, improved 668 acres of timber stands, 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 USDA 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.

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DRAFT MODEL STATE PRESS RELEASE

Tom Amontree 202-720-4623
Joel Berg 202-720-5746

CONGRESS CANCELS VERMONT AMERICORPS PROJECT ON GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

WASHINGTON, July xx, 1996--Congress has canceled the portion of the AmeriCorps national service program planned for this year on the Green Mountain National Forest, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said today.

The program was canceled because Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress denied the U. S. Department of Agriculture's request to reprogram Fiscal Year 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps. However, Glickman expressed his desire to work with Congress to obtain bipartisan support to begin a new, year-long USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps project in Vermont beginning this October using FY97 funds.

The Vermont program would have engaged 20 citizens as AmeriCorps members performing critical work 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 receive the beneficial 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 Forest Service. "Given that Congress has recently taken bipartisan steps to work with the President to preserve the entire AmeriCorps program, I hope we can reach bipartisan 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 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. 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 Forest Service's first operational program year (1994-1995), AmeriCorps members constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trails, achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, improved 668 acres of timber stands, 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 USDA 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.

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DRAFT MODEL STATE PRESS RELEASE

Tom Amontree 202-720-4623
Joel Berg 202-720-5746

CONGRESS CANCELS ARKANSAS AMERICORPS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PLANNED BY USDA FOREST SERVICE

WASHINGTON, July xx, 1996--Congress has canceled the portion of the AmeriCorps national service program planned by the USDA Forest Service that would have implemented community development projects in Arkansas, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said today.

The program was canceled because Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress denied the U. S. Department of Agriculture's request to reprogram Fiscal Year 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps. However, Glickman expressed his desire to work with Congress to obtain bipartisan support to begin a new, year-long USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps project in Vermont beginning this October using FY97 funds.

The Arkansas program would have engaged three AmeriCorps members in performing critical work in Holly Grove, North Little Rock, and Batesville, Arkansas that would have promoted economic development, protected the environment, and relocated families living in flood plains. 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 Arkansas will not receive the beneficial services that AmeriCorps members would have performed. 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 Forest Service. "Given that Congress has recently taken bipartisan steps to work with the President to preserve the entire AmeriCorps program, I hope we can reach bipartisan agreement to continue Forest Service-sponsored AmeriCorps projects starting this fall."

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. All USDA AmeriCorps projects are designed to "get things done" while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and promoting personal responsibility.

USDA currently sponsors other community development AmeriCorps projects in Arkansas, which were allowed to continue by Congress.

Nationally, in the Forest Service's first operational program year (1994-1995), AmeriCorps members constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trails, achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, improved 668 acres of timber stands, 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 community development projects implemented nationally by the USDA 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.

#

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Have been instructed to send latest version of AmeriCorps:Rural Development Team site objectives to you for approval (or disapproval). Word is that we are to hire, pending other approvals, July 1 with no funding anticipated for FY97...in other words we are to terminate members Sept. 30, 1996.

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$\frac{1}{2}$ Year

Grantee Department of Agriculture
 Park and Recreation Planner

Site Rural Development NC-1
 Cherokee, NC

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
 COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To begin implementation of a comprehensive 5-year community wide plan to improve local community resulting in successful development and organization of park and recreation facilities on the Eastern Band of Cherokee reservation.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++
 1) What work will be done? What service will your members engage in?

A community needs assessment for recreational opportunities was developed, identifying potential park locations, which will be presented to the Tribal Council. Some changes and adaptations may need to be made before the plan is approved.

Upon approval, the member will implement the Master Plan which calls for the refurbishing 7 community parks, making 3 scenic areas on the reservation more accessible for persons with disabilities, constructing 25 miles of trails, and developing 4 public picnic areas.

How - Volunteers

Member will coordinate recreational activities and program such as cultural activities, youth projects which build self-esteem, and an exercise program for the elderly. These activities will be designed to deter deviant behavior and enhance the quality of life for community members.

2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Organized development of recreational parks in the community.

Involvement by tribe members to develop and implement the plan.

Establishment of a parks and community spaces featuring the scenic beauty and cultural heritage of the Cherokee Reservation.

Revitalization of community participation in organized recreational activities.

3) How will you measure the quality of these activities?

The completed Master Plan will be amended as needed and approved by the Tribal Council for implementation.

Community involvement will be documented before and after community activities to determine the percentage of tribal members participating in events such as cultural activities, youth programs and elderly exercise programs.

Recreational improvements to 7 community parks will be visible and used by tribal members as indicated by recreational surveys.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

Construction of recreational sites will begin.

Local community members will maintain park and recreation facilities and develop future community improvements.

Quarterly reports will reflect the number of new volunteers and increased participation by tribal members. Tribal members will also be more aware of AmeriCorps involvement.

5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your members perform?

There are 10,000 enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and approximately 8,500 reside within the 6 communities located within the reservation. It is estimated that 85% of 8,500 will utilize the recreation and park facilities which will be made available through AmeriCorps. Additionally, approximately 8 million visitors visit this reservation annually and approximately 75% of those visitors will utilize these facilities at least once.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Environmental Education

Site Rural Development TN-1
Rutledge, TN

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT #1: To develop and conduct an education and technical assistance program which results in 8 conservation projects constructed on private lands in the drainage area of the Clinch River in Tennessee.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will develop technical tools to be used to guide installation of conservation projects, including landownership and land use maps. Member will use technical tools to guide work with private landowners to install conservation practices.

- Technical Tools

- a) acquire topography maps
- b) define project boundaries
- c) define property boundaries and land ownership
- d) define land use

- Implementation

- a) Develop agreements with landowners and install 8 key conservation practices utilizing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect natural resources.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

- a) The 8 conservation practices (BMPs) installed to protect the quality of the Clinch River which is home to more species of freshwater mussels than in the entire continent of Europe. This river harbors 17 threatened and endangered species. At least 2 miles of river and streambanks will be protected from erosion through practices such as fencing and plantings.

3)How will you measure the quality of these activities?

- a) Installed BMPs will meet standards as outlines in the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Technical Guide.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

- a) Landowners sign approved agreements for the installation of BMPs.
- b) A 100% approval of installed practices by technical personnel at the Clinch-Powell RC&D.

5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your members perform?

At least 40.

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT #2: Conduct a broad environmental educational campaign in K-12 and general public which reaches 300 to 400 students and increased participant knowledge in environmental issues as measured by pre and post tests.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will conduct an educational campaign which includes community, school and special events components:

- Educational Campaign

a) Community Education - Conduct a community meeting to gather input and to educate the community about the values of the Clinch River and about the project. Educate key landowners by visiting "door to door" to gather information and to educate on an individual basis. Organize a river raft for key landowners in the watershed to travel down the river in an environmental education setting. Develop educational component to public river access sites along the river utilizing displays.

b) Schools - Conduct presentations in environmental education including Water Wizards (a 3rd grade water quality curriculum), Conservation Campe (a 6th grade environmental education program), Garbage Busters (a 2nd grade solid waste program), and Enviro2000 (a teacher in-service workshop on a variety of environmental education programs).

2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

a) 30 educational presentations will be conducted to school and community groups teaching 300 to 400 participants about environmental issues.

b) Increased knowledge and awareness by students and citizens about environmental issues important to the region as measured by a 75% improved score from pre and post tests.

3)How will you measure the quality of these activities?

- a) Educational presentations will be measured by the improved scores (before and after) programs
- b) Evaluations will be done by teachers and educators on the quality of the presentations.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

- a) A 75% increase in participants scoring higher on post-tests than on pre-tests.
- b) A 90% favorable teacher evaluation of educational programming.

5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your members perform?

At least 400.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Community Development Specialist

Site Rural Development TN-2
Johnson City, TN

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To plan and develop strategies for sustainable community development emphasizing sustainable economic development, alternative agriculture, litter control, and education. Success will be evaluated by the implementation of at least 1 technology transfer opportunity, 6 dump clean ups, and average increase in participation rate of 25% in households in county Household Hazardous Waste Collections over last years collection totals.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in? Done

- A) Develop a computerized database of existing roadside dumps in the 6 county area. Gain support for cleaning up one dumpt in each county and assist local leaders to show community support for enforcement of littering laws.
- B) Assist in re-establishment of native cranberry (*Vaccinium Macrocarpon*), a threatened an listed species in Tennessee. The State Status for this species is that it is likely to become endangered in the immediately foreseeable future as a result of rapid habitat destruction or commercial exploitation. This effort includes partnerships with local community groups, federal, and non-federal entities in Johnson County, Tennessee. Member will assist in tours and visits from school groups to the sites to raise awareness and increase appreciation of this unique natural treasure. Member will work alongside local volunteers to plant 300 plants in 2 new cranberry bog sites.
- C) Assist with Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) efforts in Greene County, Tennessee. Explain
- D) Educate communities about the dangers of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and disposal alternatives through workshops. Assist in the development and planning of a regional waste reduction and recycling seminar for municipalities.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

- A) Counties, communities, and local leaders in law enforcement will become more aware of roadside dumping problems in the region. Rural communities will become empowered to take action and will be supported by county officials. Local law enforcement will properly address dumping violations.
- B) The public in Shady Valley and Johnson County will be made more aware of the uniqueness of the native cranberry and will work to conserve the environment it requires to survive.

Vagux

- C) CSA will thrive and grow in Greene County.
- D) Participation in HHW collections will increase from 1298 households in 199^f to 1622 households in 1996 with total volume increasing from 74888 lbs. in 1995 to 93610 lbs. in 1996

3)How will you measure the quality of these activities?

- A) The number of roadside dumps will be reduced by at least 6 sites. Media attention and educational activities will be increased in each county.
- B) The increase in locations and plant populations where native cranberries are growing will be measured and protected through these efforts. Two bogs will be planted with a total of 300 plants.
- c) The number of producers and consumers of CSA will increase in Greene County.
- D) Participants at HHW Collections will be surveyed as to the usefulness and need for such events. Participation will increase by 25% at these events.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

- A) All counties will have a current database of existing roadside dumping sites. At least one dump will be cleaned up in each county and remain cleaned.
- B) One new organizationally sponsored and one new private landowner cranberry bog will be established in Johnson County. Each bog will be approximately 1/10 of an acre and contain approximately 150 rooted cuttings. The project will be successful if 2 bogs totaling 2/10 of an acre contain 300 surviving new plants.
- D) Participation at county level HHW collections will increase an average of 25%. Participation at HHW collections will increase from 1298 households in 1995 to 1622 households in 1996 with total volume increasing from 74888 lbs. to 93610 lbs..

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Solid Waste Specialist

Site Rural Development TN-3
Rutledge, TN

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To provide technical assistance to local governments and community organizations with historical, heritage, natural resources and solid waste programs and projects. Technical assistance will include, but not be limited to the following: project planning and coordination, resource identification, proposal development and education.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will provide technical assistance to local community groups and county governments in the form of proposal development, project planning, coordination and implementation. Specific projects will be selected and prioritized by a local advisory committee to ensure the most critical community needs are being met. Member will work with communities to implement solid waste plans, and conservation of heritage and historic resources.

2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

- a) Organize and conduct 5 waste reduction workshops (1 per county) for public officials and members of the business and industry community.
- b) Organize and establish 2 recycling programs in local schools, where none previously existed.
- c) Work closely with community groups on 2 projects involving historic/heritage/natural resource conservation. *Defile*

3) How will you measure the quality of these activities?

- a) Workshop quality will be measured by participation and evaluations submitted by participants.
- b) Recycling program quality will be measured by quality of materials sold and taken to area recycling centers and on the increased usage of the recycling program.
- c) Historic/heritage/natural resources projects will meet state SHPO standards.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

- a) Participant evaluations will show that 80% of the participants received training and information which was helpful and useful to them in their workplace and homes. At least 25 participants will institute waste reduction activities in their workplaces with assistance from the member.
- b) Program will result in diversion of 200,000 aluminum cans to recycling centers that would have otherwise gone to local landfills.
- c) Community groups will be strengthened with the support and assistance of the member. Concrete proposals/plans/activities can be documented on 2 projects.

Details

5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your members perform?

At least 1,200.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Conservation Education Specialist

Site Rural Development TN-4
Johnson City, TN

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To promote conservation education to students, teachers, and adults in the region by organizing appropriate activities and workshops, developing informational directories and assisting disadvantaged communities to create environmental awareness.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

- a) The member will be responsible for the coordination and planning of Coordinate Earth Teach, an inservice workshop for educators in the 6 county area. Earth Teach emphasizes conservation and environmental education and will be held on August 1, 1996 for 70 teachers and 1500 students (based on FY95 participation of other environmental education events). Member will coordinate and plan a regional Envirothon event for spring of 1997.
- B) Member will plan and develop a regional recycled paper products vendor directory for use by businesses and municipalities in the region. *NB*
- C) Member will research and compile data for a regional Conservation Education Resource Guide that will list free and low cost educational resources including personnel available for consultation, presentations, curriculum materials, brochures, etc.. No such guide is available that is specific to this region. Most listings of this type are centered on the Nashville area, over 300 miles away. The guide will list resources including personnel available for consultation, presentations, curriculum materials, brochures, and other materials and will be specific to resources accessible in NE Tennessee rather than a general listing of statewide or multi-state information. *NB*
- D) The member will assist Kingsport Tomorrow, a community based non-profit, to educate residents in the Riverview community (economically disadvantaged area) about environmental opportunities available to them, such as recycling, Household Hazardous Waste collections, etc..

2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

- A) The teacher inservice will increase knowledge and awareness of the teachers and students in the area of environmental education, which is an important part of the education of our future leaders. We hope participation will increase to 100 teachers in the Earth Teach program and that 20 teachers participate in this year's Environthon.
- B) More businesses and municipalities will be aware of the availability of recycled paper products in the region. Consumption of recycled products will increase, making it more available and marketable.
- C) The education materials guide will give educators a concise, organized document allowing them to find free or low cost resources for conservation education programming.
- D) Residents of Riverview will be more aware of ways they can proactively play a part in protecting their community and its environmental health.

3) How will you measure the quality of these activities?

- A) Teachers will be asked for feedback about Earth Teach as to the quality and appropriateness of the program and ways to improve the program.
- B) Users of the Recycling Directory will be encouraged to register their use of the directory through an enclosed coupon which will provide a survey as to the directory's usefulness and who is using the directory.
- C) Recipients of the education guide will be surveyed as to the guide's value to them in their educational activities.
- D) Residents in Riverdale will take action with recycling and Household Hazardous Waste. Residents will be randomly surveyed before and after the educational activities to determine their participation levels in recycling and HHW.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

- A) If over 100 teachers and 100 students participate in Earth Teach and Envirothon it will be a success and if 75% of the survey respondents respond that the activities benefited them in their teaching and education.
- B) Within 6 months after distribution of the Recycling Directory, 5% of the businesses and municipalities receiving it will have used and provided feedback using the enclosed coupons. *Nb*
- C) The Resource Guide will be considered successful if 80% of the educators surveyed give a positive response that they are using the guide within 2 months. *Nb*
- D) If 20% of the residents of the Riverdale Community have begun to recycle and dispose of HHW properly, it will be a success.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Community Development Specialist

Site Rural Development VA-3
Wise, Virginia

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To provide needed technical assistance in recycling resulting in a 10% reduction in tonnage being deposited in local land fills. Development of local leaderships skills to enable citizens to form a non-profit cooperative resulting in increased economic diversification. Currently this region is exclusively dependent on coal, and needs to diversify it's economic base.

NO

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will provide technical assistance to local agencies and groups concerning recycling and other environment and conservation actions and activities. This educational effort will be through demonstration and presentations to civic groups, schools and people interested in conservation. Member will develop educational materials advancing recycle business opportunities, promoting recycling cost benefits, and displaying new recycling products. Member will promote a 1997 Earth Day Festival as "A we are responsible for our own environment" event.

Member will assist local agencies and groups in developing at least one non-profit cooperative, which would help diversify the local economy away from coal, and provide employment opportunities for local citizens. Member will survey local groups, participate in leadership development training, and work with volunteers in developing this grassroots organization.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Implementation of source reduction and recycling resulting in a 50 ton decrease going into the land fills, thereby reducing landfill needs by 2 acres.

Earth Day 1997 will promote self awareness and a call for personal action to reduce the damage done to the environment by large land fill needs, litter, stream sediment caused by unprotected driveways and land use techniques and a variety of other damaging practices, unknowingly performed by local citizens and business people.

Establishment of at least one local non-profit cooperative which will diversify the economy. One example of this type of cooperative is the Goat producers cooperative developed through the Kentucky Forest Service AmeriCorps program which provides sustainable development while maintaining the quality of the environment.

NO

3)How will you measure the quality of these activities?

Solid waste infrastructure will consist of one convenience center and five recycling centers for the region.

Participants of the 1997 Earth Day Festival will be surveyed and at least 30% will indicate that they will change their habits to protect the environment.

Members of the community work ban together to establish a non-profit cooperative.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

The region will have a convenience station and 5 recycling centers logically spaced through out the area.

Source reduction and recycling programs will assist in attaining a 50 ton reduction in solid waste going to the land fills.

The 1997 Earth Day Festival will draw a minimum of 100 people who indicate that they will start recycling process at their homes.

The non-profit cooperative will become self-sufficient after one year.

Department of Agriculture
Communication Education Specialist

Site Rural Development VA-2
Wytheville, VA

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To educate forest workers on safety and Best Management Practices (BMPs) which will result in saving 2 lives from logging accidents and reducing 5 tons of sediment per streams, thereby improving the environmental quality of the region. To train volunteers in 3 communities to establish and maintain community forests resulting in improved rural city environments, reduced cooling costs for citizens, and community pride.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will conduct the Master logging program, which consists of teaching and educating forest workers and loggers to reduce the death and accident rates, to increase compliance to OSHA, Environmental laws and regulations, to provide methods to protect streams, soils and vegetation. This program will be presented at three colleges throughout the region and requires field study. The program will consist of conducting courses in forest ecology, safety, OSHA regulations, sustained forest initiatives, pre-harvest layout and techniques, CPR and first aid, environmental laws, best management practices, timber felling techniques, and business administration. Member will also communicate information about the Master Logger Program through the Agriculture News Letter, which brings together and stimulate rural people to be better informed.

Member will develop a "tree care" counseling programs for 6 local governments. This guidance will consist of identifying the best tree species communities can plant to reduce noise, clean air, provide wind and visual barriers, and improve the beauty of the region. The Tree Care education will also give a on hands experience on planting, pruning and maintaining the various species of trees.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Due to forest workers are following old concepts and methods, forest manufacturing has one of highest incidences of death and disabling injuries in the State. It also degrades the environment by silting streams, visually unappealing and has the potential of leaving a low quality stand. The Master Logger Program will result in improved safety and quality of the environment through the education of the forest workers themselves.

Urban forestry programs are often under utilized in rural communities. Trees in smaller rural areas reduce cooling costs, recycle air, and are aesthetically pleasing. Through the "tree care" program we hope to establish 6 community forest sites which will be maintained by local volunteers.

3)How will you measure the quality of these activities?

Complete compliance to OSHA standards for forest workers is one measure of quality for the Master Logger Program. Reduction of sediment by 5 tons per year per stream as measured by Virginia Department of Forestry survey taken by forestry water samples taken on a monthly basis and analyzed.

A landscape architect with the USDA Forest Service will approve all "tree program" plantings and will review the species site selection pamphlet for technical accuracy.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

The Master Logger program will have two standards to measure directly. The first standard is number of loggers that attend the short course and those who achieve the Master Logger status. It is estimated that 160 to 200 will attend the short course and 20 to 30 will obtain Master Logger. On the safety side, the program may result in saving 2 lives of forest workers. On the environmental side, it is predicted that sedimentation to streams will be reduced by 100 tons in the next year due to these educational efforts. This is equal to keeping 10 dump truck of dirt from our streams.

More rural communities in the region will be aware of community tree planting programs. At least 6 community forests will become established and volunteers will maintain these sites in 3 communities.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Forest Engineer
(Wood in Transportation)

Site Rural Development VA-1
Wytheville, VA

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To demonstrate modern timber bridge technology which will result in improved infrastructure and increase water quality in Southwestern Virginia. Select sites for dry fire hydrants in 7 counties resulting in a 15% reduction in rural fire protection costs.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will design and assist in the installation of at least 2 pedestrian timber bridges, and 1 vehicular timber bridge.

Member will conduct demonstration workshops for loggers and landowners in the use of the "portable logging bridge".

Member will assist county officials to select sites for dry fire hydrants.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Timber bridges provide needed cost efficient infrastructures for a region with aging and dangerous bridges. Many existing cement bridges are below state weight standards.

Continued demonstrations of the "portable logging bridge" technology to local loggers and landowners results in a reduction of 10 tons stream sedimentation cause by unprotected stream crossing.

Rural fire protection will be improve by the installation of at least 20 dry fire hydrants in key locations. This will help reduce fire insurance rate by approximately 15% to the rural households in the area.

3)How will you measure the quality of these activities?

All work plans will be approved by the State Department of Transportation. Installation of bridges will be done under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer.

Use of portable bridge will follow VDOF BMP guidelines, and be supervised by professional forester on site installation. VDOF will monitor sedimentation as per State guidelines.

Dry fire hydrants sites will be approved by VDOF and county fire officials.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

At least 12 county and/or state governments, business owners and land users indicate interest in utilizing timber bridge technology to address their infrastructure needs and will commit the estimated cost of \$20,000 per bridge to address local infrastructure needs.

At least 10 local landowners and loggers will use portable bridge technology in protecting the land.

At least 5 counties will install dry fire hydrants as part of a rural fire protection program.

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FAX COVER PAGE

Date: Fri Jun 14 15:21:58 GMT 1996

Destination Fax: +1 202 720 4614

From: E.CRANE

Subject: ATTN: Joel Berg

Number of pages: 9
(including cover page(s))

UA-Message ID: GD-SGLXSG

Addressed To:

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Content-Type: text
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Mississippi Delta site objectives for your review. We have not made formal agreement with Forest Service research to supervise 1 member; still alot of loose ends.

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 Content-Length: 00000011197

Grantee Department of Agriculture Site Rural Development AR-1
 Natural Resources Environmental North Little Rock, AR
 Specialist

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
 COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To promote alternative energy sources which are environmentally safe, to select appropriate sites for installation of dry fire hydrants thereby reducing economic and social losses from rural wildfires, to facilitate implementation and coordinate demonstration projects for five poultry liter spreaders which will reduce non-point source pollution in poultry producing counties, and to assist in the creation of an Native American cultural center.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Member will assist county officials in locating appropriate sites for dry fire hydrants. The State legislature has committed \$2.2 million for installing this cost effective form of rural fire protection. Member will contact landowners who have farm ponds of adequate size to support a dry hydrant, and will educate citizens on the benefits of this system. Local fire departments will conduct field demonstrations.

Member will assist 4 Native American tribes to implement a plan to develop a cultural center and preserve 70 acres of lands containing burial mounds.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Dry fire hydrants will be installed in rural areas, reducing fire risk, and lowering fire insurance rates by 10%.

A cultural heritage center will become established and the burial mounds preserved for future generations.

3)How will you measure the quality of these activities?

Fire insurance rates will be monitored by county officials for reductions in rates in those counties which install dry fire hydrants.

4)By what standard will you gauge success?

Fire insurance rates reduced by 10% due to the installation of dry fire

of Hydrants

hydrants.

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Housing Relocation Coordinator

Site Rural Development AR-2
Holly Grove, AR

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS:

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS:

+++++

1) What activities will you be engaged in?

Assisting socially disadvantaged residents of the Dials Creek Floodplain to relocate in quality, affordable housing.

Continue to work with community leaders to explore structural and non-structural opportunities for implementing action items identified in the recently completed Holly Grove Floodplain Management Study.

Educate Holly Grove youth on natural resources, social, and economic issues concerning community development.

Create a network of technical and financial groups, organizations and agencies within Holly Grove and its hinterlands.

2) What is hoped for result of the activities described above?

To aid residents in relocating to alternate housing outside the floodplain.

Determine the housing needs of the residents affected by the FEMA buyout.

Provide and assist residents with housing applications for assistance in meeting their needs.

Organize a local committee to implement nonstructural measures within the floodplain. This will include floodproofing, demolition and relocation of existing structures.

Develop a plan to use the land secured by the FEMA buyout for wetland enhancement, outdoor classrooms and wetland park development.

Provide local leaders and educators with the information necessary to instruct the youth of Holly Grove on natural resource conservation.

Implement a youth education program dealing with the issues of natural resources, crime prevention, drug prevention and school retention.

3) How will you measure the quality of these activities?

Formation of a community group to address social, environmental and economic issues.

At least 15 youth education programs presented which actively involve minority youth from the area.

Completion of an Action Plan to address structural and non-structural opportunities of the Holly Grove Foodplain Management study.

4) What standard will you gauge success?

of families within the floodplain relocated to affordable housing.

Active community groups participating in local actions which affect their lives.

Detailed ✓ Accomplishments
other than NRCs

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Recreation Planner

Site Rural Development LA-1
Long Leaf, LA

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OK

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To restore, preserve and interpret the Southern Forest Heritage Museum & Research Center, to tell the story of the great Southeastern forests and the history and culture that the logging industry spawned, for future generations. Member will recruit and work with 50 local volunteers to assist in restoration of the historic Crowell Lumber Mill and construction of two miles of interpreted walking trails. Interpretive educational programs will increase awareness of 5 local schools resulting in field trips which will generate future interest in preserving this unique site.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1) What work will be done? What service will your members engage in?

Member will conduct at least 15 educational presentations to school groups and adults.

Member will assist in stabilizing and restoring existing buildings and objects (i.e, steam locomotives) on the 57 acre Southern Forest Heritage Center living museum following the master plan.

Member will coordinate groups of volunteers to construct two miles of trail complete with interpretive signs focusing on both site history and natural environment.

2) What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

Awareness of the Southern Forest Heritage Museum and it's mission will be increased so that the number of volunteers providing labor is doubled during the member's service time.

Increased appreciation for the complex relationship between humans and the environment as it relates to historic as well as modern forest management.

3) How will you measure the quality of these activities?

Interpretive programs will be evaluated by the professional staff of the Southern Forest Heritage Center and by the Forest Service Heritage and Recreation staff.

The trail system will be located according to the master plan and will meet Forest Service standards for trail construction.

Volunteers will have opportunities to submit both written and verbal comments on their experiences working on projects. This feedback will be used to improve the volunteer experience at the Southern Forest Heritage Center.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

At least 50 local people become involved, either by volunteering their services or through other contributions, to see this 57 acre site restored as a living museum, complete with a working mill and town site.

At least 4 of the 5 local schools will make an annual field trip to the Southern Forest Heritage Center part of their curriculum.

5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your members perform?

The community of Long Leaf, Louisiana and surrounding area.

The school systems of Rapides and neighboring Parishes in central Louisiana (approximately 6000 students & teachers)

Grantee Department of Agriculture
Environmental Education

Site Rural Development MS-1
Stoneville, MS
FS Research Station

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: To promote environmental education in three county school systems by organizing activities and also to promote conservation education to the public through awareness such as presentations and workshops. Member will conduct or arrange 50 environmental education presentations for grades K-12, resulting in increased knowledge by students and citizens as measured by a 50% increase in scores, teacher evaluations and an enrollment of 100 students.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

+++++

1)What activities will you be engaged in?

Provide the school systems of Bolivar, Washington, and Sunflower counties with a full-time Environmental Educator. These counties are classified as 100% rural with 50% of the population living at or below the poverty level. The member's work within these counties is how they will conduct natural resource education programs.

Member will develop instructional units to be used in correlation with materials available through the school systems, and modify agency materials to reflect the local population and local natural resources.

Member will facilitate the formation of partnerships, cooperation and workshops with local agencies such as Mississippi Forestry Commission, USDA Forest Service, NRCS, Mississippi Board of Education, and other local groups.

2)What is the hoped for result of the activities described above?

50 presentations in environmental education through a comprehensive menu of primary, middle, secondary and teacher support.

Environmental education materials developed and made available to the county school systems through the AmeriCorps member.

Partnerships with agencies will give school systems the ability to provide additional educational opportunities to their students.

Nu

3) How will you measure the quality of these activities?

Improvement of scores on the pre- and post- tests on the environmental education curriculum.

Continued requests for copies of educational materials produced by the member.

Increased participation in all aspects of the environmental education program.

4) By what standard will you gauge success?

A 20% increase in participation and 75% of participants scoring higher on post tests in the environmental education curriculum.

Teacher evaluations rating all activities as appropriate and increase of 10% in participation of local schools in environmental education programs.

Teachers will be asked for feed back about the program such as how could it better serve the educational needs of the students. Approximately 80% of these students have an African-American heritage, and the member will be modifying traditional environmental educational materials to enhance their effectiveness with this population group.

5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work you members perform?

Teachers and administrators in 3 county school systems will have environmental education materials available to them, and the member will assist in teacher training.

Approximately 100 K-12 grade students will benefit from the opportunity to learn about their environment, and to have contact with natural resource professionals regarding career opportunities.

Facsimile Machine Transmittal

USDA FOREST SERVICE

Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry

Rural Development

180 Canfield Street

Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

Phone: 304-285-1536

Fax: 304-285-1655

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Date: 4/2/96 Time: _____

Number of pages (Including this transmittal sheet) 10

To: JOEL BERG
Americorps

From: AL Steele

Comments: JOEL - Revised version of objectives
Hope this fits better. Will call you tomorrow
to get your impressions. Anxious to get this
going. Would urge you to carefully read
the MN proposal. Only that way can you
get a ~~complete~~ complete sense of what they
are doing.

NM Project 1 Northern Counties Coordinated Land Use Planning Project

Overall Objective

"To assist nine counties in Northern Minnesota to target and complete nine sustainable development projects which will improve the quality of the environment, assist communities to decrease the economic impact of regulatory issues."

Background

Nine counties in Northern Minnesota have formed a joint powers group called the Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board (Northern Counties). This board is in the process of developing land use plans and reaching agreements with state and federal agencies on ways everyone can work together to both protect natural resources and allow private and public landowners to move forward with agricultural, forestry, mining and tourism activities on the 13 million acres contained in the Northern Counties area.

Prevention of gridlock between environmental concerns and economic development interests and prevention of the expenditure of resources on conflict rather than cooperation is a key issue in Northern Minnesota's future. The area is characterized by low population levels and a wide variety of natural resources, but there are many competing interests with ideas about using those resources. Conflicts between local needs and outside preferences have become increasingly common.

Although Counties have started a planning process which is intended to address many of the issues outlined above, there is also a strong need to deal with priority issues on a shorter time schedule and to start work on specific projects which can provide information on the real world problems and confront immediate environmental concerns.

Proposed Activities

The proposed activities will target and complete nine high priority sustainable development projects in the counties which will directly address natural resource issues and assist public or private land owners to overcome barriers to sustainable development. The project is designed in a manner which will allow information from the project selection and completion to be used in the design of future Northern Counties plans and to assist others that might want to duplicate the projects. Activities are also designed in a manner which will allow future information sharing over an electronic media. Finally, the final 9 projects (Objective 4) will be chosen to address high quality priority environmental projects where cleanup, restoration or other direct improvements to the natural resource base is needed.

A very important part of the activity design is that the project inventory, targeting and identification process will insure that there is agreement on high priority projects which can be completed without conflict.

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**Objectives for FY 1996****Objective 1 - Inventory and Identify 45 Potential Projects**

Each county will target a category of natural resources issues and AmeriCorps personnel will complete an inventory of potential projects within that category. The inventory will include input from community, local, state and federal parties that have an interest in the category. Examples of categories would include forest, mining, agriculture, wetlands, shorelands, wildlife areas, wastewater treatment, drinking water supplies, lakes or rivers. To the extent possible, inventory and analysis (Objective 2) will utilize environmental impact methodologies consistent with those established as USDA policy in FmHA Instruction 1940-G. The inventory will be stored and mapped in an electronic form. It is estimated that approximately 10-15% of AmeriCorps members time will be spent on this inventory.

Result: The primary result will be a solid list of potential projects which can serve as the basis for the projects to be completed by this program. A secondary result will be the start of consensus building which will come from contacts with the interested parties to gain input on projects. A third impact will be that the list can be used for future projects and planning discussions.

Measurement/Impact: At least five priority projects must be identified in each county. The primary impact for the projects will be that each will have the opportunity to access resources, information, and support which will be used to assist with completion of the project.

Standard: Each project listing must include information on land ownership, natural resource issues, development potential, and barriers to completion. This information must be provided in an electronic format, including location on a geographical information system.

Benefit: 45 landowners, either public or private will benefit from being placed in a listing which will focus resources on issues identified by the local unit of government and the community as barriers to sustainable development.

Objective 2 - Complete Analysis of 16 Projects

Counties will be asked to choose two projects which will be targeted for additional analysis. The remaining projects will be placed on a list which will be maintained for future project completion. Background information will be compiled on each of the selected projects including information from existing county sources, the Forest Service, Mn Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Planning, MN Pollution Control Agency or other appropriate sources. This information will be compiled in a standard electronic format so it can be used under activity 5. Once suitable information is compiled, an analysis of each project will be completed which will cover natural resource, social and economic impacts.

Result: The analysis results will make it possible for decision makers to better examine the impacts of the projects, to form priorities and to choose a acceptable action path.

Measurement/Impact: Each project must provide background information in a standard electronic format and identify any important information items which are missing. The standard format will be developed during the analysis but must include impact information, possible solutions and

must address barriers identified in Objective 1. The impact of this activity will be a greatly increased likelihood that the projects will be completed.

Standard: This Objective will be successful if a standard format for analysis is completed and if communities and local units of government are willing to accept the analysis as valuable.

Benefit: 18 communities, local units of government or other entities will have a high quality analysis of a problem issue which they have identified, including a well defined approach to moving forward. The 9 counties, other individuals, and agencies will indirectly benefit by having the base of a standard analysis process and documented sources of information to use in future project analysis.

Objective 3 - Identify 9 projects to be completed.

AmeriCorps personnel will work with the landowners, local elected officials and state/federal agencies to identify one environmentally significant project in each county that can be completed. Additional projects may be targeted if agreements can be reached that there are adequate resources.

Result: The primary result will be an agreement by the affected parties that the project can be completed. This type of agreement is very important in completing projects where there are sensitive natural resource and development issues.

Measurement/Impact: The selection of 9 projects. Completion of the selection objective will greatly increase the likelihood that the project will be completed. Information from the inventory and analysis objectives will be used to gain necessary support for the projects.

Standard: Each project selected must have the agreement of all affected parties with ownership or regulatory interest.

Benefit: 9 communities or areas will benefit directly from being selected and having all background information completed.

Objective 4 - Completion of 9 Projects

AmeriCorps personnel will be assigned duties which will result in the completion of the 9 projects. Activities will, to the extent consistent with local desires, emphasize projects which deal with aquifer recharge areas, critical wildlife habitats, floodplains, historical or archeological sites, important farmland, prime forest lands, prime range land, national/state/local landmarks, wetlands, brownfield restorations, or wilderness areas. Specific activities under this objective will depend on the nature of the project. It is likely that projects will revolve around cleanup or site restoration/protection.

Result: Increased protection of natural resources and increased use of resources for appropriate activities.

Measurement/Impact: Each project will be required to establish measurement and impact indicators.

Standard: The satisfaction of the affected parties will be the primary gauge. The satisfaction of the other agencies involved will be a secondary gauge.

Benefit: 9 communities or areas will directly benefit from the

completion of the project. Each project will also be asked to identify others that will directly benefit. It is likely that there will be other direct benefits but that will need to be established in each project.

Objective 5 - Electronic Bulletin Board

An electronic bulletin board will be established to link the 9 counties and to provide access to other counties on the activities of the Northern Counties group. This bulletin board will include the following items information sources and, if possible actual information, analysis methods and examples of project analysis, space for exchange of ideas, project summaries and other items as defined in the program. The information and projects completed under objectives 1-4 will form the backbone of the original bulletin board. The bulletin board will then be designed to grow from that point

Result: Increased communication between the member counties and communities; and the opportunity for a growing level of communication within the field of sustainable development.

Measurement/Impact: System is accessed at least 300 times.

Standard: A place will be provided in the bulletin board for comments on the quality of the product.

Benefit: Increased communication between community members as well as with those directing this effort.

**WV Project 1-- Rural Infrastructure, Osage WV. 4 AmeriCorps Members.**

Overall Objective: To assist the rural community of Osage to improve their local infrastructure in order to improve health standards and position the community for future community and economic development.

Background

Scotts Run is a rural community that sprung to life during the boom times for the coal industry in WV. Depletion of local coal reserves and the associated loss of jobs has "ground down" the once thriving community to a subsistence level. Socio-economic characteristics include:

- Approximately 200 families, 1/3 of which are African American.
- Educational level predominantly less than 12th grade.
- Family incomes of less than \$20,000, many substantially less

Located just "across the river" from Morgantown, WV, Scotts Run has been unable to take advantage of the substantial growth of its' nearby relatively wealthy neighbor despite "growth pressures" in the Morgantown area. Located in the floodplain of the Monongahela River, Scotts Run has no waste treatment facilities. Disposal of human wastes is achieved by "straight pipes" running directly from homes to nearby creeks and other wetlands, ultimately ending up in the river. Nearby communities, such as Point Marion, PA, draw their drinking water from the nearby river and chemically treat it to meet health standards.

Local citizens realize that they are living in something akin to third world conditions and have tried to address the waste disposal issue. However, lacking the human, financial, and technical resources in the local community, they have been unable to address this serious health hazard and position themselves for a slice of the regional economic pie.

In addition to the lack of waste treatment, the overall appearance of the community and local homes is an additional disincentive for those businesses or families considering moving to the area. A local community development organization has succeeded in obtaining resources necessary to upgrade homes and approve the overall appearance of the community. However, again lacking the human and financial resources to make this project happen has created barriers to effectively leveraging meager local resources and mobilizing the community.



**Activities for FY 1996**

At a minimum, the following activities will be conducted:

Community Housing & Infrastructure

- 1) Contact each household in the Scotts Run area and determine their current housing and infrastructure needs. Identify infrastructure needs and develop a map.
- 2) Identify homes in need of improvement (at least 15)
- 3) Organize work teams. 15 work teams of 10 people will be identified. Work teams will be volunteers from Scotts Run and surrounding communities.
- 4) Complete improvements on at least 15 homes and log at least 2000 person hours of volunteer labor for this project.
- 5) By the end of the AmeriCorps Members tenure, have developed a long-term plan of priority community infrastructure needs in order to focus the future efforts of community volunteers.

Expected Results of Activities:

- 1) 15 homes are improved.
- 2) The community will have a clear sense of priority infrastructure development needs and be aware of technical and financial resources available to them.

Broad Community Benefits

- 1 The appearance of the community is improved.
- 2 Increased cooperation amongst community members.

Measurements of Quality/Success

- 1) 15 homes improved

Organizational Capacity:

The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area Economic Action Programs has been in operation in excess of seven years. In that time our organization has received various awards and recognition for the innovative approaches applied toward promoting the concept of natural resource based sustainable development. Our staff has expertise in a variety of fields including the biological sciences, engineering, business, forestry, economics, and information management systems. Our local partners in this effort have longstanding ties to the community of





Scotts Run and have various professionals on staff that can direct the activities of AmeriCorps Members. They have extensive experience organizing volunteers to accomplish community action oriented projects.

Recruitment Plan:

Objective: To recruit a diverse group of highly qualified individuals to assist rural communities in Minnesota. These individuals will be college students at the senior level or higher, or recent graduates of four-year colleges or graduate schools.

Job Descriptions:

Business Development Specialists
Marketing Specialists
Computer Specialists
Travel/Tourism Specialists
Industrial Engineers/Wood Processing Specialists
Environmental Engineers
Civil Engineers (Bridges)
Industrial Education Specialists
Operations Management Specialists
Aquaculturist/Fisheries Biologists
Community Planners
Sociologists
Journalism/English majors

Locations:

Minnesota: 7 positions
West Virginia: 4 positions

Methods:

Mail

Background information and applications will be mailed to career counseling staff at the fifty-four (54) four-year universities and colleges in Minnesota and West Virginia. The same information will be mailed to all Forest Service recruitment representatives at 1890 Colleges.

Personal Contacts

Personal contacts will be made with Department heads at colleges and universities in both states which have forestry-related curriculums.

Press Releases

A press release patterned after the standard AmeriCorps release will be sent to key news media in Minnesota, West Virginia, and surrounding states.





The release will announce the AmeriCorps program and specific Forest Service efforts in the two states. The AmeriCorps 1-800 number will be listed, as well as a local contact and phone number.

Public Service Announcements

Radio and television will be contacted regarding a public service announcement on the AmeriCorps program. A request will be made to have daily air time between August 1 and September 15.

Timetable

By April 8: Will have contacted financial aid counselors and minority recruitment personnel at local universities and colleges, student deans, job placement coordinators, and other university or college organizations or officials who may have knowledge of suitable candidates. In order to meet established minority recruitment goals, universities or colleges with high numbers of minority students will be contacted first.

By April 11: Will meet with state and local officials representing the disabled to discuss elements of the AmeriCorps program.

By April 11: Will have PSA's running statewide on radio and television to present information on the AmeriCorps program.

By April 15: Will obtain lists of local residents interested in the program who have called into the USDA and Corporation for National and Community Service 800 lines.

April 26: Last day to receive applications. Select finalists for interviews. Will interview twice as many applicants as there are slots in the program.

April 30: Selections are finalized. Local office calls all of those selected and as many of those not selected as possible. National office sends letters from Secretary Espy to all those who were and were not selected.

Detailed Workplan and Milestone Schedule:

It is not possible to provide a detailed workplan and milestone schedule at this time. Like the EZ/EC process recently completed by the USDA (which also emphasized sustainable development as a goal), it is first necessary to get communities together to define precisely their problems and opportunities. A significant amount of our AmeriCorps efforts for FY '95 has been on defining the scope of the problems, opportunities, and barriers to achieving sustainable development. Based on the extensive amount of work within communities throughout West Virginia and Minnesota, we have been able to "form up" projects that seem to address the problems, opportunities, and barriers that have been communicated to us by a broad cross section of the communities served.

Many of the projects we are undertaking in partnership with communities, like many of those in the EZ/EC process, involve multi-dimensional and

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multi-disciplinary problems and opportunities. Like the EZ/EC process, we must now engage communities in a detailed discussion on exactly what they want to do and exactly how they wish to achieve it. Detailed workplans and milestones are not possible at this time. They will be developed through interchange with the communities since they are the ones most appropriate to plan their futures. The Rural Development Team can provide them with the technical expertise and financial resources to plan their own futures.

We are not requesting a special dispensation of the rules. The precedent for this approach is the EZ/EC process, a process well grounded in the theories of community development and the realities of implementing complex, multi-dimensional projects.

Transmitted



To: Guanda

From: Joel

Subject: Progress on AmeriCorps in the Interior Appropriations Bill

4 pages, including this cover

Senator Murray has succeeded in reaching agreement with both Senator Byrd and Senator Gorton on the attached colloquy that will be included in the Congressional Record in the floor debate on the Interior Appropriations bill. In the colloquy, both Byrd and Gorton make statements on FS AmeriCorps reprogramming far more positive than their previous statements on the matter. All three pledged to give prompt consideration to a FY 97 AmeriCorps reprogramming request for the Forest Service.

As I have indicated to both the Secretary's Office and NRE, I believe it would be extremely helpful if the FS could immediately revamp last year's reprogramming request to reflect any proposed changes for FY97, and if we could get that letter cleared by OGC, OBPA, NRE, OMB, and OSEC rapidly so the letter could actually be delivered to the Hill the day the President signs either the appropriations act or a CR. If we do this, it is our best shot to get quick approval so we can get the program up and running in time for the launch of the overall program on October 25.

It is interesting to note that Byrd's statement specifically requests that the reprogramming letter answer "If AmeriCorps members can be used in a manner that on-the-ground land managers have determined will be cost-effective and beneficial to the agency." In other words, Byrd wants to be assured that Forest Service managers in the field really want this program and that it is not just being forced upon them by Washington. As you know, in reality, it is precisely on-the-ground managers who **most** want this program. In the last two years, all of our projects have been proposed by the individual forest themselves to meet their most pressing on-the-ground needs --- it is critical that we communicate that in the reprogramming letter. Perhaps, as an appendix to the reprogramming letter, we can attach all our internal AmeriCorps project application cover sheets sent from the field, which demonstrate the great desire by forest supervisors and district rangers to utilize AmeriCorps.

Also attached, for your information, is a letter from the Governor of Washington State to your Regional Forester for Region 6.

I have also sent a copy of this to Robin. Call me at 720-5746 with any questions.

Attn: Joel Berg
Fr: Marla Marcin

Colloquy Between
Sens. Murray, Gorton and Byrd
Re. AmeriCorps on Interior Appropriations

Sen. Murray: Mr. Chairman, contained in this bill is language identical to that found in the FY 1996 appropriations bill requiring the Forest Service to submit appropriate reprogramming requests to the Committee prior to using AmeriCorps members for its programs. It was very unfortunate that AmeriCorps members were not used this summer in many projects where they were needed because of the lateness of the FY 1996 appropriations bill and the Forest Service's need to proceed with field work. I am a strong supporter of AmeriCorps and would like to clarify that the Committee intends to review promptly a reprogramming request that uses AmeriCorps members as alternative delivery systems for filling Forest Service needs, such as fire fighting, KV work, recreation projects, timber stand improvement, watershed restoration, and economic development.

Sen. Gorton: The Committee intends to give prompt consideration to any AmeriCorps reprogramming requests that are received. It is important that agencies' programs be carried out using the most efficient and effective means available. I look forward to working with you, Sen. Murray, in response to such FY 1997 reprogramming requests.

Sen. Byrd: I agree, Mr. Chairman. If AmeriCorps members can be used in a manner that on-the-ground land managers have determined will be cost-effective and beneficial to the agency, those types of efforts could be considered as part of a reprogramming request.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • TTY/TDD (360) 753-6466

July 29, 1996

Mr. Bob Williams
Regional Forester, Region 6
Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
333 SW 1st. Avenue
PO Box 3623
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Mr. Williams:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Regional Forester for Region 6 of the Forest Service.

I had the pleasure of meeting some of your staff from the Gifford Pinchot National Forest on May 23, 1996 in Vancouver, WA during a grant award ceremony for the Northwest Service Academy. I thanked them for their continued support of Academy activities at the Mt. Adams residential center in Trout Lake and want to take this opportunity to personally convey my appreciation to you for your willingness to fund this and other important AmeriCorps activities in the state.

The efforts made by AmeriCorps members in projects you support help address ongoing state and federal priorities. The environmental and restoration projects these members are completing will have a long term impact on this state and the local communities who see the benefits of national service. Our state is also an investor in these projects with the allocation of state general funds to help support the match requirement of the Mt. Adams center.

I realize that the uncertainty of the FY96 federal budget as well as the currently debated FY97 budget have made it difficult this year to implement the residential AmeriCorps program on the Olympic National Forest. Last year this program was able to accomplish many needy projects that not only benefited the Olympic National Forest but also local governmental entities in the area. These type of partnerships are excellent examples of innovative federal-state cooperation that is important to continually demonstrate to local government and the general public. I strongly support the opening of the AmeriCorps project at the Olympic National Forest this year and other AmeriCorps-Forest service partnerships.

Mr. Bob Williams
July 29, 1996
Page 2

I have asked Bill Basl of my staff and Executive Director of the Washington Commission for National and Community Service to contact you and express my continued interest that Region 6 as well as Forest Service headquarters continue to support and fund these projects. I have also asked Bill to examine with you and your staff ways that our state can also partner with you in order to strengthen these important AmeriCorps projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Lowry". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

MIKE LOWRY
Governor

**Critical Forest Service support is needed NOW
to keep 110 NWSA AmeriCorps Members in service**

The NWSA needs help from the Corporation for National Service in releasing critical Forest Service funding to support 110 Members actively engaged in environmental and community service. We need your help in identifying specifically how we can work with our local congressional representatives to help free up these dollars so we can meet our program match requirements.

Historical links....

The Forest Service has been a key partner and a member of the governance council overseeing the **Northwest Service Academy** since it was conceived by a coalition of Pacific Northwest community organizations in 1991 and funded by the Commission for National and Community Service as a Subtitle D project in 1993.

Since 1994 the Forest Service has provided residential facilities for up to **35 AmeriCorps Members** and 10 staff based at the Mt Adams Ranger District on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington State. In addition it has provided office and warehouse space for up to **75 Members** and 10 staff on the Mt Hood National Forest near Portland, Oregon.

The Forest Service has been a key environmental project partner for the NWSA. Forest Service projects focused on **forest and wildlife research, stream restoration and forest health** projects have enabled the NWSA to draw dedicated and high quality AmeriCorps Members, many with degrees in environmental science and biology, from throughout the nation. In 1995 NWSA AmeriCorps Members **provided over 25 person years of hands-on service and \$623,000 in work accomplishment** on the Gifford Pinchot and Mt Hood National Forests and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. In addition they worked with over 80 community non profits, schools and partnering agencies in 10 counties in both Washington and Oregon.

Background of present funding quandary...

In November 1994 the Forest Service announced a formal process to that used in FY 1996 for funding of all Forest Service sponsored AmeriCorps programs. The process was understood by the Forest Service field staff to be one of funding \$9.4 million in Forest Service AmeriCorps programs "off the top" at the Washington Office level for FY 1996, with projects competing for selection first at the Forest Service National level and then approved by USDA and the CNS. Region 6 of the Forest Service, which serves national forests in Oregon and Washington, received approval for **\$370,000** in funding for the Two Mountain program, named after two Cascade peaks, Mt Hood and Mt Adams, which fall within the circle of service provided by the NWSA.

In the spring of 1995, Region 6 administered a competitive grant process to select cooperators for the three approved R-6 AmeriCorps programs. The NWSA was selected to receive \$370,000 in funding for the Two Mountain program, **\$320,000 to match the CNS grant to NWSA of \$1,840,359 and \$50,000 for the local Forest Service units to administer projects related to the grant award.** In addition the NWSA is required to raise \$225,365 from private, state and non-profit project partners for FY 1996. Based on this knowledge the NWSA, administered by Educational Serviced District 112 (ESD 112) in Vancouver, Washington, initiated a second year of service and recruited 110 new AmeriCorps Members.

Obviously recent congressional budget cuts have eroded both the CNS's tentative budget and those projected by the FS. But now that tentative budgets have reached Forest Service field units, there appears to be no dollars set aside for AmeriCorps programs including the NWSA, the **only AmeriCorps program still operating on national forest lands in the nation.**

We understand that there is support for AmeriCorps at the highest levels in the Forest Service, but that has not translated into financial support in the field. ESD 112 needs the funding now to meet its obligations in supporting the NWSA AmeriCorps program. In spite of the lack of this critical financial support, NWSA AmeriCorps Members have continued working with Forest Service project managers on a broad scope of restoration, research and recreation projects since September 1995. ESD 112 has been using funds from other programs to cover the missing FS match over the past five months, recognizing the challenges faced by federal agencies nationwide.

It is now critical that ESD 112 receive the \$320,000 set aside by the Forest Service for the Two Mountains program or the NWSA AmeriCorps will be forced to close down. This would be a great loss to the Forest Service and to the next generation of natural resource leaders and professionals.



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

February 15, 1995

To: USDA AmeriCorps Project Managers, Facilitators, and Members

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA JB

Subject: President Clinton Specifically Praises USDA AmeriCorps Project

You might be interested to know that, in a speech yesterday in San Bernadino, California, President Clinton specifically praised the USDA AmeriCorps project on the San Bernadino National Forest. The ninety Members of that project attended the President's speech.

Said Clinton:

"If you look at what this national service project does --- they're working in the San Bernadino National Forest; people who are helping to clean-up the forest, maintain it, strengthen it, keep it there for our children and our grandchildren, make sure it's an important resource... These are the kinds of things that are going on all over America, and I think it emphasizes what I'm saying. For a small amount of federal money we have increased opportunity with no bureaucracy. This is all done at the grass-roots level."

I believe the President's comments are applicable to all USDA AmeriCorps projects. Congratulations on all of your hard work and success!

March 4, 1996

To: Guanda Vinney-Fitch, Elizabeth Crane

From: Joel Berg

Subject: **Clarifications Still Needed for Southern Region RDT Objectives**

I have reviewed the revised objectives, dated 2/29/96, and almost all still need significant revisions. Most seem still focused on community capacity building a facilitating process, rather than the required direct service. Also, many of the objectives are still too diffuse, focusing on a wide variety activities rather than one or two specific projects which would have a concrete impact on the community in the one year of service.

NC-1: Member seems too focused on planning. It is unclear how one Member alone would refurbish 7 community parks, make 3 areas accessible for people with disabilities, construct 25 miles of trails, and develop 4 picnic areas. Would this occur through grant money or through the reservations normal workforce? If so, the objective would probably be impermissible. Or would the work be performed almost entirely by volunteers? If that is the case, how many volunteers will be recruited and how many hours are they expected to serve.

TN-1: All references to a media campaign should be eliminated; no AmeriCorps Member should spend a significant amount of time on media outreach. It is unclear how many students will actually be reached in the 30 environmental presentations.

TN-2: Objective too diffuse and ambitious. Need more specifics on how many cranberry plants will be planted, how many acres they will cover, and why this is important for the local environment. Need more specifics on how many additional students will actually be educated. Need specifics on how seminar will actually lead to increasing recycling.

TN-3: Tourism outreach service is impermissible, based on the Corporation for National Service's grant agreement with USDA. Database creation and maintenance is not permissible direct service. Needed specifics on actual increase in recycling rate.

TN-4: Resource guide is indirect service. In addition, USDA AmeriCorps members throughout the country, including Tennessee, produced numerous such handbooks -- why do we need another one? Need specifics on how much

additional hazardous waste will actually be collected.

VA-3: Need specifics on how Earth Day activities will actually improve the environment directly. Need specifics on what services that cooperative would perform to directly meet local human, environmental, educational, or public safety needs.

VA-2 : The objectives estimates that 2 logger lives will be saved: how many loggers per year now die in the area due to unsafe practices? How many volunteers will be recruited for tree planting activities and how many trees will be planted?

VA-1: How many dry fire hydrants will actually be installed?

LA-1: Objectives too diffuse and ambitious. Need assessment not direct service. needs specifics on eldercare programs. How much will environmental camp usage be increased?

AR-1: Are some of these objectives the same as NRCS objectives at the same site? If so, is this duplication? How many dry fire hydrants will actually be installed? How will the cultural center be created? Will this include fundraising?

AR-5: Are the floodplain relocation objectives the same as NRCS objectives at the same site? If so, is this duplication?

MS-9: If 50 presentations will be made, why will only 100 students be enrolled in program.?

Given that we have been working on these objectives together for over a year, perhaps it would be helpful if we could have a conference call with all the actual site supervisors so we can explain first-hand why significant changes are still needed.

please call me at (202) 720-5746 if you would like to set up a call or if you have any questions about my comments.

The Honorable Slade Gorton
United States Senator from the State of Washington
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4701

Dear Senator Gorton,

Over the past couple of years I have watched the Northwest Service Academy, a residential AmeriCorps project located in Trout Lake, Washington, reach out to rural communities in Klickitat, Clark, Yakima, and Skamania Counties. This past year NWSA AmeriCorps Members got an evening community school program started in Trout Lake, Bingen got weekend help with Civic Pride Week, Trout Lake and White Salmon students got tutoring help, BZ Corners and Husum got the White Salmon River cleaned up, Yakima valley farmers got free well testing, Castle Rock got a new start on a riverside park and most importantly, the whole Mid Columbia got flood relief help in February.

But this is just part of the story. AmeriCorps Members from Trout Lake have not only helped our communities through service projects with over two dozen local non profit community groups, but have played a major role in restoring our watersheds and forests. By partnering with the USDA Forest Service, which is the major land owner in Klickitat and Skamania Counties, they have helped restore critical salmon spawning habitat, provide seedlings for plantings throughout the Pacific Northwest, and played a critical role in wildlife surveys.

The Academy also plays a major economic role in Klickitat County. With a budget of over a million dollars it helps buffer our communities from the reduced timber production from National Forest lands. The staff for the NWSA comes from local communities and the Members spend their living allowance in our communities. The Western Rural Development Center at Oregon State University estimates that these dollars have a three fold impact in our communities making the NWSA a major player in our local economy.

AmeriCorps programs demand local community investment-over 33% of a program's funding must come from local sources. Because of our limited rural resources we are not able to raise the cash match that the NWSA needs. The USDA Forest Service has played a major role in bringing matching funding to this AmeriCorps project because of the critical work AmeriCorps Members played in restoration projects on National Forest lands.

But now we understand language in the Interior Appropriations committee will prohibit the USDA Forest Service from supporting the NWSA and similar AmeriCorps projects nationwide. Without the ability of the NWSA to utilize the surplus federal Forest Service facilities at the Mt Adams Ranger District and draw upon in-kind matching training and technical support the NWSA may have to close its doors.

More importantly, the NWSA needs the ability to continue to find matching federal dollars by targeting critical restoration projects on surrounding National Forest lands. Small rural communities like ours do not have the ability to raise the level of matching funds required by an AmeriCorps program of this size-although we obviously appreciate the benefits that accrue to our communities.

We understand that you, as a key Northwest Senator on the Senate Interior Appropriations Committee, have the ability to insert language in the 1997 appropriations bill for the USDA Forest Service that will preserve AmeriCorps Members ability to continue working on National Forest lands. You can keep the NWSA alive and a viable part of our local communities by also allowing the Forest Service to provide matching funds for AmeriCorps teams working on National Forest lands in habitat restoration projects.

This particular AmeriCorps project has won our hearts by focusing on the critical unmet needs of our local communities while simultaneously dealing with larger regional issues of salmon and forest restoration. Please help us keep the NWSA alive by helping authorize critical Forest Service matching funds by inserting language similar to that added to last year's appropriations bill. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

FACT SHEET ON FOREST SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS USED FOR AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE PROJECTS

Background:

This year, the USDA Forest Service spent approximately \$10 million to sponsor 383 AmeriCorps Members working in Public Lands Teams and Rural Development Teams in 20 states. In the first three quarters of the program year, these Members performed over 365,000 hours of community service.

Next year --- if allowed to do so by Congress --- the Forest Service will again spend \$10 million, but would greatly increase the size of the program. By further improving the cost-efficiency of the program, the Forest Service would be able to directly sponsor 480 AmeriCorps Members serving in 23 states and indirectly sponsor another 100 Members serving in the Northwest Service Academy near the Oregon/Washington border.

Language currently in the Interior Appropriations bill passed by the House of Representatives would bar the Forest Service from spending any funds at all on AmeriCorps. However, the Interior Appropriations Bill passed by the Senate would allow the Forest Service to fund AmeriCorps programs if the Forest Service followed "appropriate reprogramming guidelines." This issue will be resolved shortly by the conference committee on the bill.

*** BARRING THE FOREST SERVICE FROM USING APPROPRIATED FUNDS ON AMERICORPS WOULD HAVE MANY UNINTENTIONAL NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES**

Not only would the House language bar USDA from running AmeriCorps projects on Forest Service land, but the language would greatly harm --- and perhaps end ---- many other Forest Service-funded youth service projects regularly supported by Republicans. For instance, this language would severely injure the Northwest Service Academy, a

AmeriCorps project on the Oregon/Washington border which Senator Hatfield has previously praised in a public letter. This language could even prevent AmeriCorps Members from fighting fires on National Forests.

*** THIS YEAR, THE FOREST SERVICE RAN SUCCESSFUL
AMERICORPS PROJECTS IN 20 STATES**

Sites for 1994 - 1995 Forest Service Public Lands AmeriCorps Projects:

Total of 297 Members

(State of project, National Forest on which project is located, # of Members at site)

Arizona - National Forests state-wide - 45 Members ✓

California - San Bernadino National Forrest - 80 Members - 92

California - Six Rivers National Forest - 25 Members 20 FT, 3 PT

✓ Mississippi - Bienville National Forest - 20 Members

New Hampshire - White Mountain National Forest - 32 Members

Oregon - Rogue River National Forest - 37 Members - 35, 5 PT

Vermont - Green Mountain National Forest - 20 Members

Washington - Olympic National Forest - 38 Members - 32

This year, the Forest Service sponsored both Public Lands Team and Rural Development Team projects through AmeriCorps. Most of the Members served in Public Lands Team, and each of these Team sites had more Members than the Rural Development Team sites.

Public Lands and Environment Team Members 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 and made campgrounds accessible for the

disabled, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, conducted threatened and endangered species habitat surveys, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.

Sites for 1994-1995 Forest Service Rural Development Team projects

Total of 86 Members

(states in which Members are located, # of Members in the state)

- Arizona/New Mexico border - 5 Members -2
- Arkansas - 5 Members ✓
- Colorado - 2 members -4
- ✓ Georgia - 1 Member
- Kentucky - 2 Members -1
- Louisiana - 5 Members -4
- ✓ Minnesota - 10 Members
- ✓ Mississippi - 10 Members
- North Carolina - 2 Members
- Oregon - 4 Members -5
- South Carolina - 6 Members -5
- Tennessee - 5 Members -4
- Utah - 1 member
- Virginia - 4 Members -3
- ✓ West Virginia - 6 Members

Members of the Rural Development Team provided service on projects related to areas such as running water and indoor plumbing, emergency response and

Sites for 1995-1996 Forest Service Rural Development Team projects

Total of 36 Members

(states in which Members are located, # of Members in the state)

Arkansas - 3 Members

Four Corners Region - Colorado, New Mexico, Utah - 8 Members

Georgia - 1 Member

Kentucky - 2 Members

Louisiana - 2 Members

Minnesota - 7 Members

Mississippi - 2 Members

North Carolina - 1 Member

Tennessee - 4 Members

Virginia - 2 members

West Virginia - 4 Members

*** NEXT'S YEAR'S FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROGRAM WOULD HAVE MANY MORE MEMBERS FOR THE SAME FUNDING**

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, next year's Forest Service AmeriCorps program would be able to fund far more AmeriCorps Members for the same level of spending.

With the same \$10 million in spending, the size of the Forest Service program would rise from 364 Members in 20 states to 480 Members in 23 states.

*** FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS DO NOT COST THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER MORE THAN WOULD ORDINARILY BE SPENT ON THE FOREST SERVICE**

The Forest Service is not spending one cent extra of appropriated funds to support AmeriCorps. Rather, it is using funding already appropriated to re-build trails, make areas accessible to the disabled, refurbish recreation areas, improve timber stands, etc., to perform precisely those tasks. All the Forest Service is doing is using AmeriCorps as a delivery mechanism to perform the same work that would normally be performed for the Forest Service. The only difference is that, since AmeriCorps Members perform far more work per dollar than the same work performed through routine means, the Forest Service is able to complete more work by using AmeriCorps.

National Forests have a massive backlog of work important that needs to be done. For instance, According to a March 1994 Forest Service report, the National Forest system then had 26,000 recreation sites needing \$746 million in work; 120,000 miles of trails needing \$277 million in work; and fish and wildlife habitats requiring \$14 million in work.

*** FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS "GET THINGS DONE" MORE CHEAPLY ON FEDERAL LANDS THAN DO OTHER METHODS**

The limited cost/benefit analyses already performed prove that both the Public Lands Team and the Rural Development Team AmeriCorps projects are extremely cost-effective.

After the first half a year of operating AmeriCorps, the Forest Service calculated that its 236 AmeriCorps Members serving on Public Lands Teams perform at least \$1.51 worth of service for each \$1.00 that the American taxpayer spends to support such service. Although it is difficult to blend cost benefits from different Forest Service regions around the country, the cost-benefit figures are based on an average of the combined cost savings of all recreation projects completed. These costs included all Federal spending, including the Member stipends and educational awards.

The Forest Service AmeriCorps Public Lands crews completed recreation projects for 51% less than similar projects completed by force account (if completed by Federal employees), and 68% less than similar services completed by contracted services. For example, in one area it cost AmeriCorps \$64,185 to complete 53 miles of heavy trail maintenance. The same projects would have cost \$126,000 by force account, and \$212,000 if the services were contracted.

The Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council in Tennessee calculated that in the first four months of the program, the four USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Members, who are managed by the Council, performed approximately \$2.73 worth of service for each \$1.00 that the American taxpayer spent to support such service. As evidenced by the attached "Chart 1," the Council calculated that if purchased on the "open market," one service project performed by one Member would have cost an estimated \$23,975 while another service project performed by three Members would have cost an estimated, \$50,400, bringing the total value of the service performed to \$74,375. The cost of the AmeriCorps Members, pro-rated to the four months period in which they performed the projects, was \$27,272.

*** FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS HAVE RECEIVED
WIDE-SPREAD BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT**

"It's going to be a wonderful boon for us in the area of the environment."

- Senator James Jeffords (R-VT)

Discussing Forest Service and NRCS AmeriCorps Projects in Vermont

"Last week a crew of young people in the AmeriCorps program braved wet, steep slopes, and wrestled with downed logs, dying trees, and poison oak to help make this area less of a fire danger.... the clean-up does illustrate the value of this national service program ... In addition to watershed work, the crews protect wetlands, restore recreation areas, increase handicap accessibility, and much more ... Important work is being done and the long-range benefits are great in learned job skills and educational incentives."

- "AmeriCorps forest project shows what can be done,"

Editorial, *Ashland-Tidings*, Oregon, June 26, 1995

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your recent letter to Joe Parvankin testifying to the importance of the AmeriCorps program in helping Friends of Trees in their tree planting projects. I appreciate this kind of information. Over and over again, I have heard good things about the Northwest Service Academy and the work they are doing."

- Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR)

Letter to Richard Seidman, Executive Director, Friends of Trees

"The White Mountain National Forest AmeriCorps program, the state's largest AmeriCorps program, not only helps preserve our natural resources but enhances economic growth as well."

- Terry Shumacker and Debbie Tasker, bi-partisan Co-Chairs

New Hampshire National and Community Service Executive Board

"These Members protect natural resources.... These Vermont USDA Members are not 'Federal bureaucrats' as opponents have charged. I would invite any Member of Congress to come to Vermont to see the volunteers and the work that is being done to help communities.... It is clear that the USDA AmeriCorps program has reinvented government by creating new federal, state and local non-profit partnerships."

- Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

June, 2 1995

"AmeriCorps Members in these programs are accomplishing vital reforestation, recreation and conservation projects for the Forest service; projects that would not otherwise be possible. Members have enhanced recreational opportunities that address the needs of local communities and promote tourism. And they have addressed conservation issues vital to the health and well-being of our national forests. These two USDA AmeriCorps programs are prime examples of federal/non-profit AmeriCorps partnerships that leverage additional funds."

- Arthur Pope, Executive Director, Northwest Youth Corps

June 7, 1995

"There are many things the federal government does wrong. But creating opportunities for young people to help their country, while putting a small amount of money aside, usually to pay for college, is not one of them... There are 38 young men and women at a work camp in the Applegate ranger District this winter, working in the woods as well as renovating structures and parks in Butte Falls and Prospect. So far, AmeriCorps is a success in America's forests."

-Editorial, *Medford Mail Tribune*, Oregon

January 18, 1995

*** AMERICORPS PROJECTS ON FOREST SERVICE LAND HAVE ACCOMPLISHED AMAZING RESULTS**

The following is a brief summary of third quarter accomplishments and cumulative accomplishments ---- as of August 1, 1995 ---- for the Forest Service AmeriCorps projects through the USDA direct grant, in which a total of 332 AmeriCorps Members performed 362,340 service hours:

- * Maintained over 24,000 acres cumulative along with 1.23 miles of stream bank in Fire rehabilitation/Watershed protection.

- * Achieved 386 acres of reforestation in the 3rd quarter bringing the cumulative figure to 638 acres -- 29,500 willows have been planted -- 11 flood fences were built and 20 structures to prevent flooding.

- * Maintained 127 miles of trail in the 3rd quarter, bringing the total miles of trail maintained since the beginning of the program to 355.2 miles.
- * Completely rehabilitated or built 220 campground sites in the 3rd quarter, putting the total thus far in the program year to 254.
- * Prepared 16 camp sites for accessibility for people with disabilities - bringing the cumulative to 42 camp sites.
- * Improved 52 acres of Timber Stand for a total of 254 acres to date.
- * Constructed 58 miles of new fence in the 3rd quarter - bringing the years total thus far to 79 miles of new fence built by the AmeriCorps Program Members.
- * Members built 1.5 miles of Historic Site Trail as an unusual and highlighted project.
- * Achieved 912 acres of Wildlife Habitat Improvement in the 3rd quarter bringing the total acres improved to date, through the AmeriCorps Program, to 2,019 acres. 113 structures to shelter or protect wildlife were built - bringing the cumulative to 133 structures and 296 nesting boxes for the year.
- * 577 acres of Fisheries Habitat Improvement was done in the 3rd quarter for a total of 760 acres through 3 quarters of the program year.
- * Work was done this quarter on 15 miles of vehicle trails to keep them passable and free of obstructive growth and slides. The total for the Program year, thus far, is 18 miles of vehicle trail work.
- * Established and built 4 new picnic areas this quarter - bringing the total this year to 10 new areas for use.
- * AmeriCorps Members worked with the city of Eureka to build obstructions to stop erosion of six different areas in and around the city. The work was critical to saving slopes from sliding and diverting unwanted runoff and flooding from eroded areas.
- * Bettered road conditions and thus the Safety Factor by "daylighting" 50 curves on winding roads with "blind" curves--Cutting and clearing brush opened by the curves.
- * Released 775,000 salmon fry in a fish stocking operation.
- * Conducted educational programs which reached over 1189 students the 3rd

quarter and increased the number of students reached to 1,829 to date.

*** FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS ARE SO GOOD THAT THEY CAN PLEASE BOTH TIMBER COMPANIES AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS**

AmeriCorps projects on Forest Service both lands improve timber stands --- thus aiding future timbers harvests --- and preserve ecosystems --- thus helping save endangered species. AmeriCorps is one of the best ways to combine environmental protection and economic growth.

It's no wonder why --- even in communities in the Pacific Northwest which are deeply divided over timber issues --- both sides agree that AmeriCorps projects on Forest Service lands are one of the best possible activities to be engaged in by the government.

*** FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROGRAM ALLOWS MANY MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES TO PAY FOR COLLEGE**

The vast majority of AmeriCorps Members in Forest Service projects are from middle class families. These families usual earn between \$20,000 - \$50,000 -- at a time when most public universities cost a minimum of \$5,000 per year and most private universities are in excess of \$10,000 per year. Yet these solidly middle class families have been basically told by the Federal government that they are too "rich" to receive Pell Grants or Perkins Loans for their children.

Furthermore --- by including assets in the calculations --- the arbitrary financial needs tests for most forms of Federal student aid actually discriminate against families that save their money for their children's educations.

Thus, the Forest Service AmeriCorps programs provide middle class families with one of the few methods available to help fund their children's college educations.

*** FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS SUPPORT WORK INSTEAD OF WELFARE**

Although most Forest Service AmeriCorps members are from middle class families, some are from low-income families. Some of these Members from low-income families left AFDC to join AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps projects on Forest Service lands require back-breaking physical labor. If we are really serious about reforming welfare, we should expand -- not eliminate --- programs such as this which reward hard work.

*** EXCELLENT NON-PROFIT AND STATE AGENCIES RECEIVE FUNDS
TO HELP RUN FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS**

By creating innovative public-private partnerships, Forest Service AmeriCorps projects reinvent government. Below is a partial list of non-Federal agencies receiving funds to help manage Forest Service AmeriCorps projects:

Arizona Conservation Corps

California Conservation Corps

Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps (Mississippi)

New Hampshire Conservation Corps

Northwest Youth Corps (Oregon, Washington)

Vermont Conservation Corps

To: Robin Thompson, Forest Service

From: Joel Berg 

Subject: Progress on AmeriCorps in the Interior Appropriations Bill

4 pages, including this cover

Senator Murray has succeeded in reaching agreement with both Senator Byrd and Senator Gorton on the attached colloquy that will be included in the Congressional Record in the floor debate on the Interior Appropriations bill. In the colloquy, both Byrd and Gorton make statements on FS AmeriCorps reprogramming far more positive than their previous statements on the matter. All three pledged to give prompt consideration to a FY 97 AmeriCorps reprogramming request for the Forest Service.

As I have indicated to both the Secretary's Office and NRE, I believe it would be extremely helpful if the FS could immediately revamp last year's reprogramming request to reflect any proposed changes for FY97, and if we could get that letter cleared by OGC, OBPA, NRE, OMB, and OSEC rapidly so the letter could actually be delivered to the Hill the day the President signs either the appropriations act or a CR. If we do this, it is our best shot to get quick approval so we can get the program up and running in time for the launch of the overall program on October 25.

It is interesting to note that Byrd's statement specifically requests that the reprogramming letter answer "If AmeriCorps members can be used in a manner that on-the-ground land managers have determined will be cost-effective and beneficial to the agency." In other words, Byrd wants to be assured that Forest Service managers in the field really want this program and that it is not just being forced upon them by Washington. As you know, in reality, it is precisely on-the-ground managers who **most** want this program. In the last two years, all of our projects have been proposed by the individual forest themselves to meet their most pressing on-the-ground needs --- it is critical that we communicate that in the reprogramming letter. Perhaps, as an appendix to the reprogramming letter, we can attach all our internal AmeriCorps project application cover sheets sent from the field, which demonstrate the great desire by forest supervisors and district rangers to utilize AmeriCorps.

Also attached, for your information, is a letter from the Governor of Washington State to your Regional Forester for Region 6.

Call me at 720-5746 with any questions.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Martha Peterson

From: Joel Berg

8 PAGES, including this cover

Per our discussion, the revised Forest Service AmeriCorps reprogramming letter.

Approval is needed immediately in order for Forest Service AmeriCorps projects planned for this year to go forward.

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



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

September 15, 1995

To: Grant Buntrock, Administrator, FSA
Maureen Kennedy, RHCDS
Paul Johnson, Chief, NRCS
Jack Ward Thomas, Chief, USFS
Dayton Watkins, Administrator, RBCDS

Through: Jim Coyle, AmeriCorps Coordinator, RHCDS
Dave Gibson, AmeriCorps Coordinator, RBCDS
Paula Cole Jones, AmeriCorps Coordinator, NRCS
John Seymour, AmeriCorps Coordinator, USFS
Charles Sims, AmeriCorps Coordinator, FSA

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

We are extremely proud that, in our first year of operating USDA AmeriCorps projects, all our agencies worked closely together --- in both the field and in Washington --- to build the highest quality AmeriCorps projects possible.

We are now seeking to further strengthen this interagency cooperation --- bolstering both the quality of the USDA AmeriCorps program and viability of Secretary Glickman's vision of a reorganized, efficient "Team USDA." This increased interagency cooperation has also been requested by the Corporation for National Service, the entity that coordinates the overall AmeriCorps program for President Clinton.

For the second year of operation, we are seeking your support to institutionalize and formalize a joint, interagency, AmeriCorps management team in each state. While each state's team will clearly respect the institutional, structural and mission differences between the agencies, the team approach will be critically helpful in coordinating joint recruitment, training, service, and public affairs activities.

We would very much appreciate if you would agree to sign the attached memorandum to the field. Your endorsement will reinforce the mutual resolve of all USDA agencies to work closely together to further improve this already excellent and important program.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Farm Service Agency State Executive Directors and State AmeriCorps Project Managers

Forest Service Regional Foresters, Regional AmeriCorps Coordinators, Forest Supervisors, AmeriCorps Project Managers

Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservationists, State Conservationists, and AmeriCorps Project Directors

Rural Economic and Community Development State Directors and State AmeriCorps Contacts

From: Grant Buntrock, Administrator, Farm Service Agency *Grant Buntrock*

Maureen Kennedy, Administrator, Rural Housing and Community Development Service *Maureen Kennedy*

Pearlie S. Reed, Associate Chief *PSR*

Paul Johnson, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service *Paul Johnson*

Jack Ward Thomas, Chief, Forest Service

Dayton Watkins, Administrator, Rural Business and Community Development Service

Subject: Interagency AmeriCorps Management Teams

As you know, AmeriCorps is a top priority of President Clinton and of the entire Department of Agriculture. In its first year of operation, the USDA program made remarkable strides in promoting rural development, protecting the environment, and fighting hunger. As Secretary Glickman has put it, "The USDA AmeriCorps program is obtaining concrete, measurable results that are making a significant difference in communities across the nation. All the projects are designed to get things done, while promoting community, opportunity, and responsibility."

While Congress and the President are still negotiating over FY96 funding for the Corporation for National Service (CNS), which oversees AmeriCorps, the FY95 funding for CNS has already been agreed to by both sides. Because CNS's portion of the USDA/AmeriCorps budget is provided from FY95 appropriations to CNS, the FY96 USDA program will not be affected by any potential cuts in future appropriations to CNS. Thus, USDA has already started a second year of AmeriCorps. Please make this clear to all members of your staff, some of whom may have garnered the false impression from the media that the program has been eliminated by Congress.

We are extremely proud that, in the first year of the program, all our agencies worked closely together --- in both the field and in Washington --- to build the highest quality program possible. Your vision and hard work have made this a reality.

We are now seeking to further strengthen this interagency cooperation, bolstering both the quality of the USDA AmeriCorps program and the viability of Secretary Glickman's vision of a reorganized, efficient "Team USDA." This increased interagency cooperation has also been requested by the CNS.

For the second year of operation, we are seeking your support to institutionalize and formalize a joint, interagency, AmeriCorps management team in each state. While each state's team will clearly respect the institutional, structural and mission differences between the agencies, the team approach will be critically helpful in coordinating joint recruitment, training, service, and public affairs activities.

Here's how the new structure will work:

- * Each agency operating the program in any given state will assign one employee to be the "State AmeriCorps Project Director." These Project Directors will either directly supervise that agency's AmeriCorps/USDA Members throughout the state or supervise the work of all operating site managers in the state who will directly supervise AmeriCorps/USDA Members. Most agencies have already created such a position in their states.
- * Each agency's State AmeriCorps Project Director --- or a designated representative --- will participate in an "AmeriCorps/USDA State Management Team" which will meet at least once a month, either in person or by conference call. By consent of all the USDA agencies in a state directly funding AmeriCorps projects, representatives from other USDA agencies or other governmental entities may be welcomed and encouraged to participate in this management team. In the few instances in which only one agency in a state is directly funding AmeriCorps projects, that agency will have the option of either staffing the AmeriCorps management team itself or seeking help from other agencies. Also, in those states where USDA has an AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger project (CA, DC, MS, VT, WI), representatives from the non-profit organization managing that project should be included on the State Management Teams.

* Each Team meeting will have an agenda prepared by one of the Team members. Staff representing Anti-Hunger projects, Public Lands and Environment projects, and Rural Development will participate equally in this Team.

* Active and continuous participation by member agencies in the State Management Team is critical. Attendance at monthly meetings is necessary, both to ensure the effective functioning of the current program and to ensure future project approval from the Department. Any agency may designate a representative of a sub-grantee or another governmental or non-profit agency to represent that agency on the AmeriCorps/USDA State Management Team, provided that the representative is qualified and able to fulfill all the duties of Team Membership.

* All major decisions in a state that affect more than one agency AmeriCorps/USDA program --- such as decisions involving recruitment, joint service projects, launch activities, joint training activities, etc --- should be determined by a consensus of the AmeriCorps/USDA State Management Team. As long as decisions are permissible based on legal authorities of our agencies, the regulations of the CNS, and budgetary restrictions, we pledge to support the decisions made by each state's team.

* While each participant in an AmeriCorps/USDA State Management Team will individually answer to their supervisors in the state or region, the Team as a whole will report to the national AmeriCorps/USDA working group, composed of the USDA Director of National Service, his staff, and the national AmeriCorps coordinators for each agency funding projects. Any time a State Management Team fails to reach a consensus on an important issue, the Team can request that the issue be resolved by the national AmeriCorps/USDA working group. The national AmeriCorps USDA Working Group will have frequent conference calls with the State Management Teams.

* Each AmeriCorps/USDA State Management Team should ensure that the following four functions are performed by the Management Team. Each of the functions may be performed by a different member of the team or some members of the team may perform more than one function. However, it is critical that the agencies immediately agree upon one "Project Management Liaison" for the state:

Project Management Liaison - The prime contact with the Corporation for National Service, state commissions, and the USDA Director of National Service. A finalized list of Project Management Liaisons will be provided to the Corporation for National Service in advance of the launch of next year's program; all external complaints or questions about individual AmeriCorps/USDA projects should be made directly to the Liaison in each state. All internal agency complaints and questions should continue to be

communicated between each agency AmeriCorps project managers and each agency's national AmeriCorps staff. The Liaison will have broad knowledge of all AmeriCorps/USDA projects in the state and will coordinate overall project planning, problem solving, and continuous improvement activities.

Data Reporting Liaison - The Data Reporting Liaison will be responsible for distributing, explaining, collecting, and forwarding to the Department all forms and reports required by CNS for both Members and operating sites. It is critical for USDA to obtain this information directly from the states because the Department is building a complete and detailed database for all AmeriCorps Members to ensure that they receive their educational awards and other benefits on an accurate and timely basis. The Liaison will also collect all quarterly reports in the state, and forward them to the Department within the proscribed time-frames.

Cluster Meeting Liaison - The Liaison will coordinate all cluster meetings for the Rural Development Team, all joint signature service projects, and Member "swaps" between programs within the state or nationally. The Liaison also will coordinate all joint Member and staff training activities. Additionally, the Liaison will also be responsible for scheduling and preparing the monthly staff meetings of the AmeriCorps/USDA State Management Team and distributing meeting agendas.

External Affairs Liaison - This individual will coordinate all outreach to the media, local Congressional offices, state and local governments, and interest groups, and provide updates to the national staff. The Liaison will coordinate all joint recruitment activities.

Please agree upon one person to serve as Project Management Liaison in each state and provide that name --- along with his or her phone number, fax number, and address --- to your agency AmeriCorps coordinator by November 20, 1995.

We know that such interagency management teams can work well because similar teams have already worked in pilot locations --- such South Carolina, the Four Corners, and Louisiana --- where field staff from all our agencies took it upon themselves to reinvent government to work as a team to manage AmeriCorps projects in the first year of the program.

At the completion of the first quarter of operation for the new AmeriCorps program year, the national USDA/AmeriCorps working group will solicit your input on the efficiency and effectiveness of the management structure outlined in this memorandum. The working group will consult with you closely to implement any suggested refinements in the structure, particularly those that would limit the paperwork burden on individual field offices.

- 2) Ensuring that USDA rapidly responds to all challenges and can continuously improve all projects throughout the service year in a manner that is consistent with the both the vision of AmeriCorps and each agency's internal culture and resources at the local level.
- 3) Ensuring an accurate and timely distribution and collection of all forms and reports required by the CNS.
- 4) Increasing the number and quality of the interactions among AmeriCorps/USDA Members and between AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Members of other AmeriCorps programs.
- 5) Providing a model for realistic methods to reinvent government for other Federal agencies, while bolstering the overall USDA reorganization effort.
- 6) Avoiding both the duplication of effort when different agencies simultaneously perform overlapping duties in the states.
- 7) Coordinating more effective interactions with state commissions, Congressional offices, state and local governments, and interest groups.

Thank you once again for all your efforts in building both a better USDA and a better AmeriCorps program.