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USDA [Department of Agriculture]/AmeriCorps - Forest Service 9 [1]

Stack:
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1

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August 14, 1995

TO: Scott Shearer, Anthony Haynes *JS*
FROM: Joel Berg
RE: Attachment

Attached is a sample of a letter I would like to send the Congressional staffers we have met on the Hill. I would appreciate you reviewing the letter to make sure it meets the requirements of your office. If you have any comments, please call Elizabeth at 690-3507. Thanks for your help.

August 10, 1995

Mr. Rick Murphy
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Rick:

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to allow me to update you on the AmeriCorps/USDA projects in New Hampshire. Our Members are getting things done in the White Mountain National Forest.

If Senator Gregg or any members of his staff would like to visit one of our sites, please let us know. I am sure that the Members would enjoy showing the Senator their work.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at 720-6350 or Elizabeth Jones at 690-3507.

Sincerely,

Joel Berg, Director
National Service



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

October 4, 1995

Ms. Becky Gear
Post Office Box 1108
Clovis, NM 88102-1108

Dear Becky:

Thanks for calling about the USDA AmeriCorps project in Clovis. Enclosed are the USDA AmeriCorps recruitment materials as I promised Monday. The recruitment brochures describe the programs offered by USDA AmeriCorps.

The Clovis site will be a part of the New Mexico USDA AmeriCorps Rural Development Team. Lisa Noble will be the contact person for the project and applications should be sent directly to her. Her address is 104 West Second Street, Clovis, NM 88101. Her phone number is 505-762-7714.

If you have any questions or need more information, please give me a call at 202-690-3507.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jones
National Service

Enclosures

ACTIVITY REPORT

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO.	6611
CONNECTION TEL	95652781
CONNECTION ID	CORP NATL SVC
START TIME	11/09 15:15
USAGE TIME	03'42
PAGES	4

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

A FAX FROM USDA/AMERICORPS

FROM: Elizabeth

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: _____

TO: Steve Selby

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: 565-2781

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: _____

MESSAGE: _____

DRAFT

November ____, 1995

Reasons Why the USDA Should Continue to Run a Portion of the AmeriCorps Program

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to express our support for the AmeriCorps program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which reinvents government by finding innovative and cost-effective ways to fight hunger, improve the environment, and re-build rural communities. We are familiar with the program because of a highly successful project(s) in our state.

As you may know, the vast majority of AmeriCorps projects are not funded or managed by Federal agencies --- most are funded through state commissions appointed by each state's governor and are managed by non-profit organizations and local government organizations.

However, a relatively small component of the program is managed Federal agencies, lead by a highly successful USDA program now operating in 45 states. Unfortunately, some critics of AmeriCorps have inaccurately characterized the AmeriCorps Members sponsored by USDA as wasteful "bureaucrats" padding the Federal workforce. Such a false characterization is unfortunate.

USDA AmeriCorps Members are not Federal employees and are not performing functions generally performed by Federal employees. They are performing work far more cost-effectively than would be provided through normal government methods. They are reducing government bureaucracy by performing community service that rapidly and directly delivers vital services to citizens.

There are seven solid reasons to support the continuation of the USDA-sponsored portion of AmeriCorps.

1) USDA AmeriCorps projects are "getting things done" providing vital and mainstream service to rural, suburban, and urban communities throughout America. For instance, USDA projects are building trails and fighting fire on National Forests, improving city parks, aiding rural fire departments, bringing running water to poor rural families, and teaching children how to improve their nutrition. No one can seriously characterize such projects as "left wing" advocacy work.

2) USDA AmeriCorps projects are strengthening communities. Usually working in partnership with community-based organizations, USDA AmeriCorps Members are meeting the most pressing needs in each of hundreds of locales in which they are operating. The service projects were not designed or implemented in Washington --- all the projects are locally-proposed and locally-administered. Consequently, virtually all of the USDA AmeriCorps projects have received broad-based bi-partisan support from local leaders.

3) USDA AmeriCorps projects are expanding opportunity for low-income and middle class families. USDA projects are fully diverse --- including a large representation of Members from solidly middle class families.

4) USDA AmeriCorps projects are encouraging personal responsibility. All USDA projects require extremely hard work in exchange for educational benefits, while helping AmeriCorps Members build a life-long commitment to community service.

5) Many USDA projects are in rural and suburban areas that often receive less aid from the Federal government. These areas often also lack significant non-profit sector support networks. USDA has a field structure that is uniquely suited to run programs in traditionally under-served areas.

6) USDA AmeriCorps projects provide taxpayers with double the "bang for the buck." USDA is simply utilizing funds that would already be spent by the Department. For instance, USDA Forest Service projects are using some funding from existing trail repair budgets. Not only are the AmeriCorps Members repairing more trails than would be repaired by other means, they are also bringing communities together, promoting personal responsibility, and helping earn their own way through college --- all for the same tax dollars that normally would fund just the trail repair.

7) The USDA program enables AmeriCorps Members to perform tasks requiring technical expertise far beyond the capabilities of the vast majority of non-profit organizations. For instance, under direct and sustained supervision from experts in the field, USDA AmeriCorps Members are inspecting flood-damaged dams, implementing strategic plans to create local jobs, designing and implementing entire recycling programs for counties, helping farmers diversify their crops, bolstering the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise community initiative, designing timber bridges, and decreasing ground water pollution. If we want AmeriCorps Members to "Get things done" that require more than simple physical labor and that result in long-lasting improvements in communities, then Members need the kind of advanced technical training and supervision that can be best provided by Federal agencies such as USDA.

In summary, not only does the USDA AmeriCorps program meet the traditional liberal goals of solving social problems and expanding educational opportunity, it meets many traditional conservative goals of rewarding work instead of welfare, moving power from government agencies to volunteer sector organizations, allowing youth to earn their way through college, and reminding all citizens that they have an obligation to serve their country. As the role of Federal agencies in AmeriCorps is debated during both the appropriations and re-authorization process, we expect the USDA component of the program to receive broad bi-partisan support.

Sincerely,

Congressman John Doesmith (D-KS)

Congresswoman Penny Jones (R-CA)

Congressman Peter Pieper (D-NJ)

Congresswoman Pickel Pepper (R-KY)

Congressman Calvin Trillin (D-HI)

Congresswoman Jennifer Smith (R-OK)



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

A FAX FROM USDA/AMERICORPS

FROM: Elizabeth Jones

TELEPHONE: 690-3507

FAX: _____

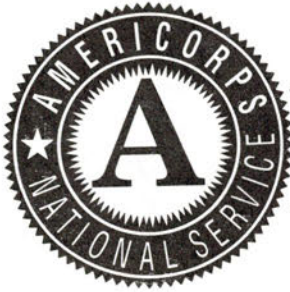
TO: Mike Egan

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: _____

MESSAGE: _____



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

September 26, 1995

TO: Mike Egan

FROM: Elizabeth Jones
National Service, USDA

RECENT AMERICORPS/USDA ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN WASHINGTON STATE

On and near the Olympic National Forest, thirty-one AmeriCorps Members sponsored by the USDA Forest Service had, as of June 30, rehabilitated 2 wilderness sites, constructed 4.1 miles of trails, placed 40 interpretive signs, maintained 62.8 miles of trails, rehabilitated 14 campgrounds, brought 30 campsites into compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, rehabilitated 40 campsites, rehabilitated 2 historical sites, installed 4325 feet of fences, removed 300 feet of old fences, improved 1.23 mile of watershed, pruning 30 acres, maintained 30 acres seed orchard, planted 252 acres of trees, maintained 258 Habitat boxes, surveyed 700 acres of T&E Habitat.

* In and around Goldendale, 14 Members sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service had, from April 1 - June 31, worked to improve salmon habitat by building 6.5 miles of fence to improve riparian areas, planting 600 trees, and installing four structures to retain sediment; treated three-hundred acres of land damaged from forest fires; cleaned-up parks in preparation for Memorial Day and summer activity; and assisted local conservation districts in the set up of 50 stream monitoring sites.

Below are accomplishments for April 1 - June 31 for three AmeriCorps Members sponsored by the USDA Rural Economic and Community Development Agency:

One Member assisted 7 local community non-profit organizations to tie into a Statewide telecommunications project, and organized annual workshops and a conference to assist rural community leaders to meet public agency representatives to access needed resources, and was noted in a national publication.

One Member serving in Grant County organized and coordinated a grantwriting workshop for the county's non-profit organizations, and gave a number of presentations to a variety of community-based organizations and networks on strategies for accomplishing goals, trends in private and corporate funding and contacts at sources of possible funding.

One Member organized monthly meetings of the Washington Community Economic Revitalization Team to assess its impact in assisting rural, timber-impacted communities and more effectively target the funding of economic diversification projects, and completed a report on the efficacy of Federal/State coordination and collaboration in large-scale diversification projects in timber-distressed communities.



UNITED
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OF AGRICULTURE

SAMPLE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

**Congressman(woman) announces Agriculture Department's AmeriCorps Program in _____
Washington -- Congressman (woman) (NAME) _____**

announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will run an AmeriCorps national service program in _____ during 1995-'96.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program, engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an \$4,725 award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

"All AmeriCorps programs are focused on 'getting things done' while promoting community, opportunity, and responsibility," Congressman (woman) said.

Exact sites are still being finalized but projects are anticipated in (CITIES AND/OR COUNTIES) _____, _____, and _____.

During it 1994-'95 inaugural year, USDA ran three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 Members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. These USDA/AmeriCorps members have logged more than 1 million hours of service to communities around the country where they are currently completing their year's service.

Many of the AmeriCorps projects will continue to be sponsored by community-based organizations. Citizens age 17 or older are eligible to apply. There is no maximum or minimum family income required to apply.

To apply for the program or obtain information, call the toll-free national USDA/AmeriCorps hotline at 1-800-880-4183.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

A FAX FROM USDA/AMERICORPS

FROM: Elizabeth

TELEPHONE: 690-3507

FAX: 720-4614

TO: Sylvia

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: 565-2784

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3

MESSAGE: FVI

AMERICORPS/CFSA USDA *****

ROD ATTERBERRY
ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR
P. O. BOX 107
HAVANA, IL 62644-0107

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

November 9, 1995

To: Joel Berg
From: Rod Atterberry
Subject: Briefing of Senator Simon's staff

I had a phone conversation with Joe Dunn, Executive Assistant in the senator's Springfield office about USDA AmeriCorps.

I informed him of our rural Illinois AmeriCorps projects. Joe stated he did not know of the senators vote on the McCluskey bill and he would pass my information to Senator Simon.

Rod



AMERICORPS/CFSA USDA *****

ROD ATTERBERRY
ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR
P. O. BOX 107
HAVANA, IL 62644-0107

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

November 9, 1995

To: Joel Berg
From: Rod Atterberry
Subject: AmeriCorps discussion with Ray LaHood
18th Congressional District Illinois

On October 23, 1995, I visited with Congressman LaHood at a public meeting. I informed him of my AmeriCorps project and the objectives. I told him of all the good things I had seen as a facilitator and that AmeriCorps was a worth while program.

He said he was not aware of these things and thanked my for the information.

Rod

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rod Atterberry". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Rod".

August 29, 1995

FOR DISTRIBUTION

RICK ALLEN

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GRASSLEY OFFICE RELEASE

Senator Grassley's press secretary tried hard to make news yesterday, recycling old misinterpretations of an earlier version of a General Accounting Office (GAO) study on AmeriCorps, the new domestic Peace Corps. Ms. Kozeny's Media Alert misstated the facts and the GAO's Report, which confirmed the cost estimates AmeriCorps has used for nearly a year -- and which found that AmeriCorps has provided significant benefits to communities all across America.

Here are a few of Ms. Kozeny's biggest mistakes:

1. **GAO didn't undertake a comprehensive cost analysis.** As the GAO Report (now widely available) makes clear, it didn't study costs at all, but available resources -- including private contributions and in-kind help from communities. So, when a local police department lets an AmeriCorps Member use a computer after hours to track crime statistics, GAO counts it as an available resource. Ms. Kozeny would call it a cost. Most Americans would call it a great benefit.

2. **GAO confirmed AmeriCorps projections, rather than debunking them.** This is the biggest whopper of the Media Alert. As the attached information indicates, the GAO Report validates what AmeriCorps officials have told Congress, the media and the public since the initiative launched in September of 1994. In fact, GAO says AmeriCorps is coming in **under** projections for its own investment, and for the other federal cash support.

So what's gone up? Communities' belief in AmeriCorps local programs in their area. And they've backed it with their own resources. The law called for the local nonprofits in AmeriCorps to prove that they merited federal funding by showing their community support -- and AmeriCorps programs rose to the challenge. Rather than raise the \$35 million the law required, these nonprofits raised \$41 million (in cash and in-kind) from the private sector alone, according to GAO! The efforts also earned the support of states and local communities (police departments, schools and the like) to the tune of a further \$50 million.

Where did Ms. Kozeny's math break down? She didn't read the letter from the Corporation for National Service she selectively (and deceptively) quoted. Written two months before AmeriCorps began, it estimated that the Corporation would invest around \$18,000 per Member -- the \$13,000 quoted, plus (as the letter makes clear) the \$4,725 post-service education award. When the program's launch made more accurate figures possible, AmeriCorps revised this estimate slightly, to \$18,800 -- a figure it has used consistently since. GAO's conclusion? \$17,629 -- more than a thousand dollars less than AmeriCorps' estimate.

Then there's what Ms. Kozeny calls cost per hour -- a concept that GAO states clearly that it never measured. GAO did (at Senator Grassley's insistence) take all resources (cash and in-kind, private and public, in-hand and expected) and divided it by a portion of the minimum hours an AmeriCorps Member could by law serve. As the GAO Report indicates, if the assumptions were changed to track the actual experience of AmeriCorps programs, this figure drops to \$5.54 per hour.

3. **AmeriCorps federal overhead is about 7%.** The attached pie chart shows where the Corporation's investment in AmeriCorps goes. Its overhead is 7%, not the 50% Ms. Kozeny

imagines. GAO did not examine AmeriCorps overhead at all. Ms. Kozeny's new math would define overhead as the difference between available funding (which includes the free use of a school gym on Saturdays and a donation by a local business) and the minimum wage, limited benefits and education award an AmeriCorps Member earns. Nonsense! Once again, the relevant number is the roughly \$18,000 per Member AmeriCorps itself spends. And the difference between that number and direct benefits a Member earns is clearly not overhead: Should AmeriCorps Members fight fires without equipment? Build homes without tools? Clean up polluted rivers with only their bare hands?

Keep your eyes on the federal investment and the program accomplishments. It's clear that AmeriCorps is lean and effective. The attached materials show what an outside evaluation firm headed by President Ford's Commissioner of Education; a panel of noted economists retained by three national foundations; and GAO itself discovered: AmeriCorps works.

One last note about three programs cited at the end of the Media Alert: those figures have been questioned, in detail, by the programs involved. But the real issue is the average AmeriCorps investment (described above) -- and the specific benefits communities have gained from each local program. Ms. Kozeny has missed the real news: every independent study has found AmeriCorps to be a great investment.

MARTIN T. MEEHAN
5TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

318 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3411

COMMITTEES:
NATIONAL SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY READINESS

SMALL BUSINESS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAXATION AND FINANCE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
NORTHEAST-MIDWEST CONGRESSIONAL COALITION
CO-CHAIRMAN,
CONGRESSIONAL MANUFACTURING TASK FORCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2105

July 17, 1995

DISTRICT OFFICES
11 KEARNEY SQ.
LOWELL, MA 01852
(508) 459-0101

BAY STATE BUILDING
11 LAWRENCE ST.
SUITE 312
LAWRENCE, MA 01840
(508) 681-6200

WALKER BUILDING
255 MAIN ST.
ROOM 102
MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752
(508) 460-9292

Mr. Joel Berg
USDA
Office of the Secretary, Room 538A
14th and Independence SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

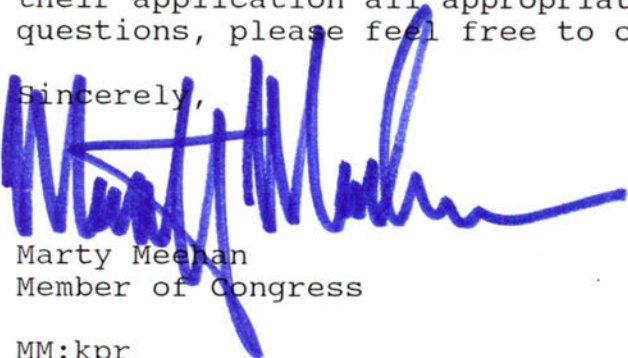
Dear Mr. Berg:

I am writing to endorse the application by the Nashua River Watershed Association for interns through the Americorps program.

I feel the Nashua River Watershed Association is critical to the environmental well-being of my Congressional District. Active throughout Eastern Massachusetts, the program provides citizens with the knowledge and resources that empower them to save endangered watershed areas. In the twenty-five years the program has been in existence, the Nashua River Watershed Association has made important progress in the fight to save our precious natural resources.

I believe the Nashua River Watershed Association would be a strong addition to the Americorps program, and urge you to give their application all appropriate consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 508-459-0101.

Sincerely,



Marty Meehan
Member of Congress

MM:kpr



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 23, 1996

TO: Mike Egan, Legislative Assistant
Office of the Honorable Patty Murray

FROM: Joel Berg, Director of National Service
USDA

Attached is a copy of a letter to Senator Gorton advising him of USDA's intention to use Forest Service fiscal year 1996 funding for the AmeriCorps program. USDA is currently planning to have a Forest Service AmeriCorps project in your state. Without the approval for reprogramming those projects may not go forward. For your information a summary of the successes of the Forest Service AmeriCorps projects is attached. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

A FAX FROM USDA/AMERICORPS

FROM: Elizabeth Jones

TELEPHONE: 690-3507

FAX: 720-4614

TO: Mike Egan

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: 224-0238

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 9

MESSAGE: Attached is the letter we discussed
this morning. Joel wanted me to attach the
following memo and Forest Service Highlights.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 27, 1996

TO: Colin Sheldon, Legislative Assistant
Office of the Honorable Norman D. Dicks

FROM: Joel Berg, Director of National Service
USDA

Attached is a copy of a letter to sent to Congressmen Regula and Yates advising them of USDA's intention to use Forest Service fiscal year 1996 funding for the AmeriCorps program. USDA is currently planning to have a Forest Service AmeriCorps project in your district. Without the approval for reprogramming that project may not go forward. For your information a summary of the successes of the Forest Service AmeriCorps projects is attached. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 720-5746.



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

February 16, 1996

Honorable Slade Gorton
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Slade:

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

In accordance with section 312 and in anticipation of continued funding for AmeriCorps, we are giving notice to the Congress of our intent to use \$9.4 million from various National Forest System (NFS) and related funds and State and Private Forestry (S&PF) funds to carry out authorized FS work projects through the AmeriCorps national service program in FY 1996.

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

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

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

Under current law, Federal agencies may receive limited grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which is funded by the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1995, although much of the CNCS appropriations is available not for FY 1995, but for the period September 1, 1995, through August 31, 1996. The final size of the appropriations for CNCS in the FY 1995 Appropriations Act was determined when the President signed the rescissions bill, Public Law Number 104-19. Thus, CNCS has determined that it does indeed have enough funding from the FY 1995 Appropriations Act to provide a grant to the Forest Service to match the FS's FY 1996 funding of AmeriCorps.

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

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

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

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

Similar letters are being sent to Congressmen Regula and Yates and Senator Byrd.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Glickman", written over the typed name and title.

DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary

Enclosure

FY 1996 FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

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

Thousands \$

National Forest System and Related Funds:

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

Rural Development Team Program:

Economic Action (SPEP)	<u>500</u>
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Total, AmeriCorps Program	<u>\$ 9,394</u>
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Under the FY 1996 reprogramming for AmeriCorps, trail construction funds would still be used only to build trails; fish habitat management funds would only be used to manage fish habitat; recreation management funds only be used on recreation projects; watershed improvement funds would only be used on watershed work; etc. The only change would be that AmeriCorps members would perform the work rather than using other methods or allowing for a work backlog.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 23, 1996

TO: Kathryn Files Lacey, Deputy Legislative Director
Office of the Honorable Diane Feinstein

FROM: Joel Berg, Director of National Service
USDA

Attached is a copy of a letter to Senator Gorton advising him of USDA's intention to use Forest Service fiscal year 1996 funding for the AmeriCorps program. USDA is currently planning to have a Forest Service AmeriCorps project in your state. Without the approval for reprogramming those projects may not go forward. For your information a summary of the successes of the Forest Service AmeriCorps projects is attached. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 23, 1996

TO: Colin McGinnis, Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the Honorable Paul Wellstone

FROM: Joel Berg, Director of National Service
USDA

JB

Attached is a copy of a letter to Senator Gorton advising him of USDA's intention to use Forest Service fiscal year 1996 funding for the AmeriCorps program. USDA is currently planning to have a Forest Service AmeriCorps project in your state. Without the approval for reprogramming those projects may not go forward. For your information a summary of the successes of the Forest Service AmeriCorps projects is attached. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 23, 1996

TO: Lisy Brown
Office of the Honorable Dale Bumpers

FROM: Joel Berg, Director of National Service
USDA

JR

Attached is a copy of a letter to Senator Gorton advising him of USDA's intention to use Forest Service fiscal year 1996 funding for the AmeriCorps program. USDA is currently planning to have a Forest Service AmeriCorps project in your state. Without the approval for reprogramming those projects may not go forward. For your information a summary of the successes of the Forest Service AmeriCorps projects is attached. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 23, 1996

TO: Adam Lawrence, Legislative Assistant
Office of the Honorable John Breaux

FROM: Joel Berg, Director of National Service
USDA

JB

Attached is a copy of a letter to Senator Gorton advising him of USDA's intention to use Forest Service fiscal year 1996 funding for the AmeriCorps program. USDA is currently planning to have a Forest Service AmeriCorps project in your state. Without the approval for reprogramming those projects may not go forward. For your information a summary of the successes of the Forest Service AmeriCorps projects is attached. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 23, 1996

TO: Matt Sikes, Legislative Assistant
Office of the Honorable Sam Nunn JB

FROM: Joel Berg, Director of National Service
USDA

Attached is a copy of a letter to Senator Gorton advising him of USDA's intention to use Forest Service fiscal year 1996 funding for the AmeriCorps program. USDA is currently planning to have a Forest Service AmeriCorps project in your state. Without the approval for reprogramming those projects may not go forward. For your information a summary of the successes of the Forest Service AmeriCorps projects is attached. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 23, 1996

TO: Maggie Whitney, Legislative Assistant
Office of the Honorable Patrick Leahy

FROM: Joel Berg, Director of National Service
USDA

JB

Attached is a copy of a letter to Senator Gorton advising him of USDA's intention to use Forest Service fiscal year 1996 funding for the AmeriCorps program. USDA is currently planning to have a Forest Service AmeriCorps project in your state. Without the approval for reprogramming those projects may not go forward. For your information a summary of the successes of the Forest Service AmeriCorps projects is attached. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 23, 1996

TO: Sherry Kaiman
Committee on Labor and Human Resources

FROM: Joel Berg, Director of National Service
USDA

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JR" or similar initials, written over the printed name "Joel Berg".

Attached is a copy of a letter to Senator Gorton advising him of USDA's intention to use Forest Service fiscal year 1996 funding for the AmeriCorps program. USDA is currently planning to have a Forest Service AmeriCorps project in your state. Without the approval for reprogramming those projects may not go forward. For your information a summary of the successes of the Forest Service AmeriCorps projects is attached. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 23, 1996

TO: Sujata Tejwani
Office of the Honorable Barbara Boxer

FROM: Joel Berg, Director of National Service
USDA

JB

Attached is a copy of a letter to Senator Gorton advising him of USDA's intention to use Forest Service fiscal year 1996 funding for the AmeriCorps program. USDA is currently planning to have a Forest Service AmeriCorps project in your state. Without the approval for reprogramming those projects may not go forward. For your information a summary of the successes of the Forest Service AmeriCorps projects is attached. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 720-5746.

FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

---- HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST YEAR

Cost Savings to the Forest Service

Forest Service project managers for Public Lands and Environment Team Members have calculated the exact cost savings to the Forest Service for each of their projects. For each dollar spent on these by the Federal government --- the AmeriCorps Members performed service that, if funded by Forest Service "force account," would have cost no less than \$1.15 and as much as \$1.51. If the same work were contracted out, it would have cost the no less than \$1.50 and as much as \$2.30 to perform the same work that was performed with one dollar of AmeriCorps funding.

The Clinch Powell RC&D Council in Rutledge Tennessee calculated that the Forest Service Rural Development Team Member supervised by the Council --- who spent the service year creating a county-wide recycling plan --- performed fully \$3.29 worth of service for each dollar spent by the Forest Service.

Public Lands and Environment Team

- * 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.
- * Built 11 flood fences to prevent future flooding.
- * 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.

Rural Development Team

Arkansas - Members worked to promote alternative energy sources which are environmentally safe, to select appropriate sites for installation of dry fire hydrants, to facilitate implementation and coordination of demonstration projects for five poultry litter spreaders. They also helped to promote alternative wood products and value-added manufacturing technologies, resulting in local people obtaining job training and higher paying employment while maintaining the quality of the rural environment. Tons of industrial wood waste is now being processed into energy in the form of wood pellets. The Members also helped the Community of Holly Grove facilitate the FEMA buy out of homes in the 100-year flood plain.

Georgia - A Member created of Recreation Opportunity Guides for the Forests, assist in developing the series of videos entitled "America's Great Outdoors", working with the Environmental Education Coordinator to present environmental education programs and fire prevention programs, worked with the Wilderness Ranger on the Brasstown Ranger District doing trail maintenance and doing presentations to local groups on wilderness management. The Recreation opportunity Guides that the Member produced will also be of value to the thousands of Forest visitors expected to visit the Forest during the 1996 Olympics.

Kentucky - Member worked with the McCreary County Fiscal Court, primarily with the County Road Supervisor, to take help create a (911) emergency response system and to start a road inventory and management system for the county.

Louisiana - One Member assisted grant development for a successful application to use timber bridge technology and materials for recreation tourism project in Lake Providence LA. He continues to assist Humphreys County, MS, in their timber bridge construction efforts. Two members assisted in the first stage of the Shiitake Mushroom forestry-related project.

Mississippi- One Member helped develop a recycling program in Leflore County. One Member organized construction of an outdoor classroom and implemented a plan to improve science test scores by 25 percent. A Member worked to start a community recreation and education program.

North Carolina - One Member developed a 5-year Master Plan for the development of a Parks and Recreation Department on the Cherokee Reservation. In addition, he established a Mountain Bike Trail on the Qualla Boundary for public use and special biking events. Another Member assisted in the identification and renovation of parks and other recreational facilities which do not comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements.

South Carolina - Two Members worked a dry fire hydrant project improve rural fire protection, lower fire insurance rates, reduce losses from fire, and stimulate rural development. a Member worked to create a nature trail at an elementary school. One Member provide technical assistance in solid waste management and recycling to communities in Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins, and Union Counties.

Tennessee - One Member assisted the Shady Valley Ruritan Club (non-profit) in organizing native cranberry restoration Action plan. The purpose of the cranberry restoration project is to stimulate economic development through tourism and educate the public about the uniqueness of the native cranberry and the Shady Valley community. One Member sponsored household hazardous Waste collections held in 6 counties in July with participation increasing by 23%.

Virginia - Member researched and wrote a Tree Identification Teachers manual and completed tree identification plaques for the Marion Riverwalk. Another Member completed timber bridge design for 2 species of lumber, 3 lumber grades for each species, and 6 different bridge spans for each species and lumber grade. He also developed and received funding for designing and constructing 2 nail-laminated pedestrian timber bridges in the towns of Teasel and Marion. They also contacted over 100 volunteers and municipal fire departments pertaining to interest in installing dry fire hydrants.

Minnesota - Members completed major analysis of the current situation in the development of hybrid poplar as an alternative crop. Members also completed analysis and documentation of a survey of primary and secondary forest products manufacturers to determine barriers they face in engaging in more value-added production..

West Virginia - AmeriCorps Members have helped implement Hayfield-McCoy Trail System by identifying trail heads, as well as conducting inventories of service providers such as gas stations, motels, and restaurants. AmeriCorps Members also completed field work and analysis of current amounts of residues left in the forests after logging has been completed. This survey, covering the central counties of West Virginia, has been used as a template for other areas of West Virginia and surrounding states. In West Virginia, probably the most meaningful project was the Braxton County project; developing a trail system for environmental education. The project included clearing and constructing interpretive nature trails, building a large wooden foot bridge over a river, hanging bird and bat boxes, and identifying and labeling plants/trees along the way.

Colorado - Members completed draft of San Juan Skyway Corridor Management Plan, Completed conceptual master plan for a Petting Zoo, completed conceptual plan for Mancos Watchable Wildlife Wetland Park, developed GIS base map of political boundaries and wildlife corridors on the San Juan Skyway, initiated Ponderosa Pine Partnership, which allowed a timber contract to be bought and delivered to Montezuma County (first time in history this has occurred), and completed the Mancos Riverwalk, which received Governor Romer's Smart Growth and Development Award for 1995.

Utah - Members completed a site inventory of 23 sites for inclusion in the Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway, completed signing project for Scenic Byways project in San Juan County, completed Urban Forestry project in Moab and in Huntington, and completed work with College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum on sorting and cataloging artifacts collected in 1987.

New Mexico - Member worked with the non-profit Costilla Arts and Crafts Guild to find work for people who were unemployed because of the closure of a lumber mill, AmeriCorps provided technical assistance to develop a plan for the second year of operation for the Sangre De Cristo Wood Workers. Working with Carson National Forest Engineer, AmeriCorps helped the people of the village of Vallecitos figure out how to improve their situation of a contaminated and insufficient water supply. AmeriCorps worked with the non-profit organization Ganados Del Valle and La Madera Cooperative to develop a long range plan for economic development in the village of Vallecitos, using forest products and locally produced arts and crafts. In addition, because of the efforts of AmeriCorps, the 2,000 residents of the village of El Rito is one year closer to having safe drinking water. In Coyote, AmeriCorps is assisting the Volunteer Fire Department in locating a building to house the fire engine and to serve as a fire house. Trees in Taos County: AmeriCorps is also assisting the development of a group who will provide a long range plan for tree planting in Taos County.

Arizona - Members assisted distressed Arizona communities to retain or expand businesses. AmeriCorps Members implemented the Econ dB, an economic data base profile, in 8 communities. Area Developers as well as the Arizona Department of Commerce's National Marketing Team will use the Econ dB. Public and private enterprises alike consider the Econ dB beneficial in attracting, developing and retaining businesses. Members also assisted multi-community action teams to have the Four Corners Heritage Council adopt the "Trail of Many Tracks" into the Four Corners Heritage Trail System. The Trail of Many Tracks is a heritage auto-touring route covering approximately 260 miles located in north central Arizona. The touring route passes through all communities adjacent to the Apache Sitgraves National Forest.

Oregon - The University of Oregon's Learn and Serve AmeriCorps Members are working and living in fourteen rural communities, five of which are USDA Forest Service supported. These participants are providing assistance in the areas of: 1) Economic Development; 2) Environmental Preservation, Restoration and Education; 3) Community Empowerment and Development.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 20, 1996

Mr. Adam Lawrence
Office of The Honorable John Breaux
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me recently to discuss the accomplishments of USDA AmeriCorps in Louisiana. Thirty-five USDA AmeriCorps Members are "getting things done" helping rural Louisianans to improve their economic opportunity and enhance the quality of their lives.

Should Senator Breaux or you wish to visit the USDA sites in Louisiana, please let me know. Attached is a site list with an explanation of the work being performed at each location.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 720-5476 or Elizabeth Jones at 690-3507. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Joel Berg
Director of National Service
USDA

USDA AmeriCorps Sites in Louisiana

<u>Location</u>	<u>Mission</u>
Ruston	Rural Housing Outreach Rural Fire Protection
Many	Rural Community Development
Franklin	Rural Community Development
Winnsboro	Rural Housing Outreach Rural Community Development Rural Fire Protection
Tallulah	Water Quality Rural Housing Outreach
Denham Springs	Rural Fire Protection
Natchitoches	Rural Fire Protection Rural Housing Outreach
Winfield	Rural Community Development
Galliano	Wetland Restoration
Marksville	Rural Housing Outreach
Jonesville	Rural Housing Outreach
Jennings	Rural Fire Protection Water Quality Rural Housing Outreach
Bastrop	Rural Housing Outreach
Opelousas	Rural Community Development
New Iberia	Rural Community Development
Cullen	Rural Community Development



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 20, 1996

Ms. Lisy Brown
Office of The Honorable Dale Bumpers
229 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0401

Dear Ms. Brown:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me recently to discuss the accomplishments of USDA AmeriCorps in Arkansas. Thirty USDA AmeriCorps Members are "getting things done" helping rural Arkansans to improve their economic opportunity and enhance the quality of their lives.

Should Senator Bumpers or you wish to visit the USDA sites in Arkansas, please let me know. Attached is a site list with an explanation of the work being performed at each location.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 720-5476 or Elizabeth Jones at 690-3507. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Joel Berg
Director of National Service
USDA

USDA AmeriCorps Sites in Arkansas

<u>Location</u>	<u>Mission</u>
Batesville	Rural Community Development
Forest City	Rural Community Development
Pine Bluff	Rural Water Extension
Brinkley	Sustainable Agriculture
North Little Rock	Environmental Restoration
Holly Grove	Housing Relocation Environmental Restoration
Blytheville	Rural Community Development
Helena	Rural Community Development
Jonesboro	Rural Community Development

DRAFT

December ____, 1995

Reasons Why the USDA Should Continue to Run a Portion of the AmeriCorps Program

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to express our support for the AmeriCorps program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which reinvents government by finding innovative and cost-effective ways to fight hunger, improve the environment, and re-build rural communities. We are familiar with the program because of a highly successful project(s) in our states.

As you may know, the vast majority of AmeriCorps projects are not funded or managed by Federal agencies --- most are funded through state commissions appointed by each state's governor and are managed by non-profit organizations and local government organizations.

However, a relatively small component of the program is managed by Federal agencies, lead by a highly successful USDA program now operating in 45 states. Unfortunately, some critics of AmeriCorps have inaccurately characterized the AmeriCorps Members sponsored by USDA as wasteful "bureaucrats" padding the Federal workforce. Such a characterization is false and unfortunate.

USDA AmeriCorps Members are not Federal employees and are not performing functions generally performed by Federal employees. They are performing work far more cost-effectively than would be provided through normal government methods. They are reducing government bureaucracy by performing community service that rapidly and directly delivers vital services to citizens.

There are seven solid reasons to support the continuation of the USDA-sponsored portion of AmeriCorps.

1) USDA AmeriCorps projects are "getting things done" providing vital and mainstream service to rural, suburban, and urban communities throughout America. For instance, USDA projects are building trails and fighting fire on National Forests, improving city parks, aiding rural fire departments, bringing running water to poor rural families, and teaching children how to improve their nutrition.

2) USDA AmeriCorps projects are strengthening communities. Working in partnership with community-based organizations, USDA AmeriCorps Members are meeting the most pressing needs in each of hundreds of locales in which they are operating. The service projects were not designed or implemented in Washington --- all the projects are locally-proposed and locally-administered. Consequently, USDA AmeriCorps projects have received broad-based bi-partisan support from local leaders.

3) USDA AmeriCorps projects are expanding opportunity for low-income and middle class families. USDA projects are fully diverse --- including a large representation of Members from solidly middle class families.

4) USDA AmeriCorps projects are encouraging personal responsibility. All USDA projects require extremely hard work in exchange for educational benefits, while helping AmeriCorps Members build a life-long commitment to community service.

5) Many USDA projects are in rural and suburban areas that often receive less aid from the Federal government. These areas often also lack significant non-profit sector support networks. USDA has a field structure that is uniquely suited to run programs in traditionally under-served areas.

6) USDA AmeriCorps projects provide taxpayers with double the "bang for the buck." USDA is simply utilizing funds that would already be spent by the Department. Not only are AmeriCorps Members performing more work than would be performed by traditional governmental means, they are also bringing communities together, promoting personal responsibility, and helping earn their own way through college --- all for the same tax dollars that normally would fund just the work.

7) The USDA program enables AmeriCorps Members to perform tasks requiring technical expertise far beyond the capabilities of the vast majority of non-profit organizations. For instance, under direct and sustained supervision from experts in the field, USDA AmeriCorps Members are inspecting flood-damaged dams, implementing strategic plans to create local jobs, designing and implementing entire recycling programs for counties, helping farmers diversify their crops, bolstering the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise community initiative, designing timber bridges, and decreasing ground water pollution. USDA and other federal agencies provide advanced technical assistance, training and supervision which allow AmeriCorps Members to accomplish tasks requiring advanced skills, resulting in benefits to communities lasting far beyond the period of service.

In summary, not only does the USDA AmeriCorps program address critical, unmet needs of communities, it moves power from government agencies to bolster service organizations and individual citizens. The USDA AmeriCorps program provides its Members with an opportunity to earn their way through college and helps remind all citizens that they have an obligation to serve their country. As the role of Federal agencies in AmeriCorps is debated during both the appropriations and re-authorization process, we expect the USDA component of the program to receive broad bi-partisan support.

Sincerely,



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

A FAX FROM USDA/AMERICORPS

FROM: Elizabeth

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: _____

TO: Steve Selby

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: 565-2781

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 06

MESSAGE: [Signature]

November 17, 1995

TO: Russ McGurk

FROM: Elizabeth Jones
National Service, USDA

RE: Members of the House who have USDA AmeriCorps projects in their districts.

Attached is a list of the Members of the House who have USDA AmeriCorps members in their districts. Asterisks indicate Members with whom Joel and I have had contact. Also attached is a list of Members who have been supportive in the past.

Members Who Have Supported AmeriCorps

Doug Bereuter
Harold Rogers
Peter Torkildsen
Bill Orton
Cleo Fields
Norm Dicks
Lynn Woolsey
James Clyburn

Members Who Have USDA AmeriCorps Sites In Their Districts

Alaska

Don Young

Arkansas

Blanche Lambert Lincoln

Ray Thornton

Jay Dickey

Arizona

Jim Kolbe

J.D. Hayworth

Ed Pastor

Bob Stump

California

John Doolittle

Jerry Lewis

Duncan Hunter

Frank Riggs

Gary Condit

Wally Herger

Cal Dooley

Sam Farr

Buck McKeon

Xavier Becerra

Lynn Woolsey*

Colorado

Scott McInnis

District of Columbia

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Florida

Pete Peterson

Georgia

Charles Norwood

Sanford Bishop

Nathan Deal

Cynthia McKinney

Hawaii

Patsy Mink

Iowa

Greg Ganske

Tom Latham

Jim Ross Lightfoot

Jim Nussle

Idaho

Helen Chenoweth

Michael Crapo

Illinois

Jerry Costello

Ray LaHood

Bobby Rush

Richard Durbin

Indiana

Kansas

Sam Brownback

Pat Roberts

Todd Tiahrt

Kentucky

Edward Whitfield

Ron Lewis

Harold Rogers*

Jim Bunning

Sotty Baesler

Louisiana

Jim McCreary

Richard Baker

Billy Tauzin

Cleo Fields

Massachusetts

Joe Kennedy

Marty Meehan

John Olver

Maryland

Steny Hoyer

Maine

Jim Longley
John Baldacci

Michigan

Nick Smith
Peter Hoekstra
Lynn Rivers
Dick Chrysler
Vernon Ehlers
Fred Upton
Bart Stupak
James Barcia

Minnesota

Jim Oberstar
Collin Peterson
Gil Gutknecht

Missouri

Harold Volkmer

Mississippi

Bennie Thompson
Roger Wicker
Sonny Montgomery
Mike Parker
check Gene Taylor

Montana

Pat Williams

North Carolina

Charles Taylor*
Eva Clayton
Richard Burr

North Dakota

Earl Pomeroy

Nebraska

Bill Barrett
Doug Bereuter*

New Hampshire

Bill Zeff

Charles Bass

New Jersey

Richard Zimmer

Marge Roukema

Jim Saxton

New Mexico

Bill Richardson*

Joe Skeen*

New York

Jack Quinn

Ohio

Deborah Pryce

John Kasich

Oklahoma

Frank Lucas

Tom Coburn

Oregon

Wes Cooley

Peter DeFazio

Elizabeth Furse

Pennsylvania

Bud Shuster

South Carolina

James Clyburn*

Floyd Spence

Lindsey Graham

John Spratt

South Dakota

Tim Johnson

Tennessee

Ed Bryant
Zach Wamp
John Tanner
Jim Quillen
Van Hilleary

Texas

Henry Bonilla
Kika de la Garza
Greg Laughlin
Frank Tejeda

Utah

James Hansen
Bill Orton*

Virginia

Rick Boucher
Lewis Payne
Frank Wolf
Herbert Bateman
Robert Scott

Vermont

Bernie Sanders

Washington

Richard Hastings
Linda Smith
Norm Dicks*

Wisconsin

Thomas Barrett

West Virginia

Nick Rahall
Robert Wise
Alan Mollahan

Wyoming

Barbara Cubin



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

Tom

MEMORANDUM

TO: USDA Sub Cabinet
FROM: Greg Frazier
Chief of Staff
DATE: 9/20/95
SUBJECT: Legislative Activities

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Greg Frazier, Chief of Staff.

Due to the sensitive nature of on-going Farm Bill negotiations, now more than ever it is imperative that we are uniform in our approach in our interactions with Congress. Every congressional contact is important, and it represents an opportunity for USDA to further its legislative and policy agenda. But before we can effectively communicate with Congress, we need to work to coordinate these contacts within the Department.

Therefore, I am asking each of you to ensure that the Office of Congressional Relations is informed in advance of all congressional meetings and briefings involving officials within your respective mission areas.

BOB DOLE
KANSAS
141 SENATE HART BUILDING
(202) 226-4521

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
RULES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1801

FYI

November 13, 1995

Mr. Gordon Swan
KHasec
Americorps
PO Box 308
Mc Pherson, KS 67460

*Find
An Americorps
Member.
The tone of this letter
to a corpsmember
is appalling!
D. Kelly*

Dear Mr. Swan:

Thank you for your letter regarding AmeriCorps. I appreciate hearing from you.

I agree with President Clinton on the importance of helping more young people go to college. I also agree that it is commendable for young people to serve their country. However, student financial aid programs already exist which are far more cost effective than AmeriCorps. Additionally, 3.9 million Americans between the ages of 16 and 24 volunteer without this expensive program. Not only is it a fallacy to claim that AmeriCorps is the best answer for keeping a college education accessible for our young Americans, but it is wrong to assert that this unwieldy program effectively promotes true volunteerism in its participants.

Who would not agree that a student coming from a low-income family needs more aid than a student whose parents make \$50,000? Yet, twenty percent of AmeriCorps participants come from families with incomes of \$50,000 or greater. For the average cost of one AmeriCorps volunteer, seventeen of America's neediest students could receive the average Pell Grant Award of \$1,584. Under our very effective subsidized loan program, one hundred students could be helped for the price of just one AmeriCorps volunteer.

Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,



BOB DOLE

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

BD/rak

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages ▶

To <i>Hank</i>	From <i>Elizabeth</i>
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax #	Fax #

NSN 7540-01-317-7368

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages ► 3

DRAFT

To <u>Steve</u>	From <u>Elizabeth</u>
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax #	Fax #
NSN 7540-01-317-7368	5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

December __, 1995

Reasons Why the USDA Should Continue to Run a Portion of the AmeriCorps Program

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to express our support for the AmeriCorps program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which reinvents government by finding innovative and cost-effective ways to fight hunger, improve the environment, and re-build rural communities. We are familiar with the program because of a highly successful project(s) in our state.

As you may know, the vast majority of AmeriCorps projects are not funded or managed by Federal agencies --- most are funded through state commissions appointed by each state's governor and are managed by non-profit organizations and local government organizations.

However, a relatively small component of the program is managed by Federal agencies, lead by a highly successful USDA program now operating in 45 states. Unfortunately, some critics of AmeriCorps have inaccurately characterized the AmeriCorps Members sponsored by USDA as wasteful "bureaucrats" padding the Federal workforce. Such a characterization is false and unfortunate.

USDA AmeriCorps Members are not Federal employees and are not performing functions generally performed by Federal employees. They are performing work far more cost-effectively than would be provided through normal government methods. They are reducing government bureaucracy by performing community service that rapidly and directly delivers vital services to citizens.

There are seven solid reasons to support the continuation of the USDA-sponsored portion of AmeriCorps.

1) USDA AmeriCorps projects are "getting things done" providing vital and mainstream service to rural, suburban, and urban communities throughout America. For instance, USDA projects are building trails and fighting fire on National Forests, improving city parks, aiding rural fire departments, bringing running water to poor rural families, and teaching children how to improve their nutrition.

2) USDA AmeriCorps projects are strengthening communities. Working in partnership with community-based organizations, USDA AmeriCorps Members are meeting the most pressing needs in each of hundreds of locales in which they are operating. The service projects were not designed or implemented in Washington --- all the projects are locally-proposed and locally-administered. Consequently, USDA AmeriCorps projects have received broad-based bi-partisan support from local leaders.

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6) USDA AmeriCorps projects provide taxpayers with double the "bang for the buck." USDA is simply utilizing funds that would already be spent by the Department. For instance, USDA Forest Service projects are using some funding from existing trail repair budgets. Not only are the AmeriCorps Members repairing more trails than would be repaired by other means, they are also bringing communities together, promoting personal responsibility, and helping earn their own way through college --- all for the same tax dollars that normally would fund just the trail repair.

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In summary, not only does the USDA AmeriCorps program address critical, unmet needs of communities, it moves power from government agencies to bolster service organizations and individual citizens. The USDA AmeriCorps program provides its Members with an opportunity to earn their way through college and helps remind all citizens that they have an obligation to serve their country. As the role of Federal agencies in AmeriCorps is debated during both the appropriations and re-authorization process, we expect the USDA component of the program to receive broad bi-partisan support.

Sincerely,

Congressman John Doesmith (D-KS)

Congresswoman Penny Jones (R-CA)

Congressman Peter Pieper (D-NJ)

Congresswoman Pickel Pepper (R-KY)

Congressman Calvin Trillin (D-HI)

Congresswoman Jennifer Smith (R-OK)

DRAFT

November ____, 1995

Reasons Why the USDA Should Continue to Run a Portion of the AmeriCorps Program

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1) USDA AmeriCorps projects are "getting things done" providing vital and mainstream service to rural, suburban, and urban communities throughout America. For instance, USDA projects are building trails and fighting fire on National Forests, improving city parks, aiding rural fire departments, bringing running water to poor rural families, and teaching children how to improve their nutrition.

2) USDA AmeriCorps projects are strengthening communities. Usually working in partnership with community-based organizations, USDA AmeriCorps Members are meeting the most pressing needs in each of hundreds of locales in which they are operating. The service projects were not designed or implemented in Washington --- all the projects are locally-proposed and locally-administered. Consequently, virtually all of the USDA AmeriCorps projects have received broad-based bi-partisan support from local leaders.

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4) USDA AmeriCorps projects are encouraging personal responsibility. All USDA projects require extremely hard work in exchange for educational benefits, while helping AmeriCorps Members build a life-long commitment to community service.

5) Many USDA projects are in rural and suburban areas that often receive less aid from the Federal government. These areas often also lack significant non-profit sector support networks. USDA has a field structure that is uniquely suited to run programs in traditionally under-served areas.

6) USDA AmeriCorps projects provide taxpayers with double the "bang for the buck." USDA is simply utilizing funds that would already be spent by the Department. For instance, USDA Forest Service projects are using some funding from existing trail repair budgets. Not only are the AmeriCorps Members repairing more trails than would be repaired by other means, they are also bringing communities together, promoting personal responsibility, and helping earn their own way through college --- all for the same tax dollars that normally would fund just the trail repair.

7) The USDA program enables AmeriCorps Members to perform tasks requiring technical expertise far beyond the capabilities of the vast majority of non-profit organizations. For instance, under direct and sustained supervision from experts in the field, USDA AmeriCorps Members are inspecting flood-damaged dams, implementing strategic plans to create local jobs, designing and implementing entire recycling programs for counties, helping farmers diversify their crops, bolstering the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise community initiative, designing timber bridges, and decreasing ground water pollution. If we want AmeriCorps Members to "Get things done" that require more than simple physical labor and that result in long-lasting improvements in communities, then Members need the kind of advanced technical training and supervision that can be best provided by Federal agencies such as USDA.

In summary, not only does the USDA AmeriCorps program meet the traditional goals of solving social problems and expanding educational opportunity, it meets many traditional conservative goals of rewarding work instead of welfare, moving power from government agencies to volunteer sector organizations, allowing youth to earn their way through college, and reminding all citizens that they have an obligation to serve their country. As the role of Federal agencies in AmeriCorps is debated during both the appropriations and re-authorization process, we expect the USDA component of the program to receive broad bi-partisan support.

Sincerely,

Congressman John Doesmith (D-KS)

Congresswoman Penny Jones (R-CA)

Congressman Peter Pieper (D-NJ)

Congresswoman Pickel Pepper (R-KY)

Congressman Calvin Trillin (D-HI)

Congresswoman Jennifer Smith (R-OK)

DRAFT

November ____, 1995

Reasons Why the USDA Should Continue to Run a Portion of the AmeriCorps Program

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to express our support for the AmeriCorps program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which reinvents government by finding innovative and cost-effective ways to fight hunger, improve the environment, and re-build rural communities. We are familiar with the program because of a highly successful project(s) in our districts.

As you may know, the vast majority of AmeriCorps projects are not funded or managed by Federal agencies --- most are funded through state commissions appointed by each state's governor and are managed by non-profit organizations and local government organizations.

However, a relatively small component of the program is managed ^{by} Federal agencies, lead by a highly successful USDA program now operating in 45 states. Unfortunately, some critics of AmeriCorps have inaccurately characterized the AmeriCorps Members sponsored by USDA as wasteful "bureaucrats" padding the Federal workforce. Such a ~~false~~ characterization is unfortunate.

USDA AmeriCorps Members are not Federal employees and are not performing functions generally performed by Federal employees. They are performing work far more cost-effectively than would be provided through normal government methods. They are reducing government bureaucracy by performing community service that rapidly and directly delivers vital services to citizens.

There are seven solid reasons to support the continuation of the USDA-sponsored portion of AmeriCorps.

1) USDA AmeriCorps projects are "getting things done" providing vital and mainstream service to rural, suburban, and urban communities throughout America. For instance, USDA projects are building trails and fighting fires on National Forests, improving city parks, aiding rural fire departments, bringing running water to poor rural families, and teaching children how to improve their nutrition. ~~No one can seriously characterize such projects as "left wing" advocacy work.~~ ✓

Gwanda

to 235-8842

235-1597

In summary, not only does the USDA AmeriCorps program meet the traditional ~~liberal~~ goals of solving social problems and expanding educational opportunity. It meets many traditional conservative goals of rewarding work instead of welfare, moving power from government agencies to volunteer sector organizations, allowing youth to earn their way through college, and reminding all citizens that they have an obligation to serve their country. As the role of Federal agencies in AmeriCorps is debated during both the appropriations and re-authorization process, we expect the USDA component of the program to receive broad bi-partisan support.

Sincerely,

Congressman John Doesmith (D-KS)

Congresswoman Penny Jones (R-CA)

Congressman Peter Pieper (D-NJ)

Congresswoman Pickel Pepper (R-KY)

Congressman Calvin Trillin (D-HI)

Congresswoman Jennifer Smith (R-OK)

441-3548

MEMORANDUM

TO: Herbert Block
FROM: Elizabeth Jones
DATE: March 21, 1995
RE: Information for Appropriations Committee Hearing

USDA has two AmeriCorps cluster sites in the First Congressional District of California. These two sites have a total of 28 members working in Public Lands and Environment teams. Additionally, another cluster site is about to be added in Weaverville, California.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has cluster sites in Santa Rosa and Ukiah, California. Four Members are working on watershed projects at both of these sites. Specifically, the Members in Santa Rosa are working on the Russian River and its tributaries. NRCS is about to open a new cluster site with a total of seven new Members. Four of these members will be working in Humboldt county where one member will be assigned to the Hoopa Indian Reservation; one will be placed in Southern Trinity county and two will be working in Shasta county.

Twenty-four Members work with the Forest Service in Six Rivers National Forest. These members are working with fish habitats, recreation facility maintenance and enhancement, threatened and endangered species, trail maintenance, and environmental education.

If you need more information please call me
at 690-3507.

→ 800-866-2701
- Fa 501-972-4605
- Earlene Harwood

Talked
w/ Lisa a asst
she okayed

Talked w/
Tony mentana
He okayed

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages ▶ /

To <u>Meg McGuire</u>	From <u>Elizabeth</u>
Dept./Agency	Phone # <u>690-3507</u>
Fax #	Fax #

NSN 7540-01-317-7368

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

RDT-MI-Chamber-Ala-Haasey-

- OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

of pages ► 13

NSN 7540-01-317-7580 3009-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

USDA/AmeriCorps Successes in Michigan
April 30, 1995

- 15 Members Initiated
- 14 Members are Still Providing Services
- 1 Member Was Hired by a Soil Conservation District
- 15,740 Hours of Service were Performed
- 62% of All Goals Are Achieved (Community Service, Community Development and Member Development)
- 620 Farm Families Were Assisted With Farmstead Assessments
- 30 Of Those Assisted Were Limited Resource Farmers
- 86 Farm Families Made Changes to Protect their Ground Water
- 1,500,000 People Were Informed About Farmstead Assessments and Ground Water Protection
- 159 News Articles Were Published
- 11 Public Service Broadcasts or Interviews Were Made
- 225 Group Presentations Were Made
- 25 Non- NRCS projects Received Assistance From USDA/ AmeriCorps members (Tree Sales, Conservation Tours Environmental Education
- 3 USDA/AmeriCorps Members Conducted a Successful at Recruiting Effort at a Recently Concluded Minorities in Agriculture and Related Sciences Conference
- 1 USDA/AmeriCorps Member is a Finalist for the Governor's Community Service Award

RDT-MI-Chandler-Ala-Hersey-

OPTIONAL FORM 88 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To: <u>Elizabeth Jones</u>		From: <u>Tamela Smith</u>	
Agency: <u>USDA-AmeriCorps</u>		Phone: <u>517 789 6638</u>	
Fax: <u>202 720 4614</u>		Fax: <u>517 789 7786</u>	
NSN 7540-01-317-7585		5029-101	
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION			

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FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 1

To: <u>Yvonne Smith</u>	From: <u>Sege A. Perez</u>
Dept./Agency: <u>USDA</u>	Phone: <u></u>
Fax #: <u>517 789-7886</u>	Fax #: <u></u>
FORM 7540-01-317-7000 5000-10*	
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	

**USDA NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
MICHIGAN**

AMERICORPS QUARTERLY REPORT

Quarter Ending: May, 1995
Membership at the Beg. of
Quarter: 14

Membership at the End
of Quarter: 14

Number of Hours of Service: 18316

Type of Service: USDA/AmeriCorps, providing Farm*A*Syst

Number of Hours of Training: 3524

Type of Training: Member development, team building

Progress Toward Meeting Community Service Objective:

No. of Farm*A*Syst Completed: 651 % of Goal 165

No. of People Planning Changes: 94 % of Goal 138

No. of People Hearing of Farm*A*Syst: 2,000,000 of Goal 100

Other Measures of Progress:

Primary Accomplishments: Wide recognition of Farm*A*Syst. program spreading via word of mouth, continued requests for assessments

Projection for the next Quarter: 250 Assessments

Primary Challenges: Farmers were busy planting, therefore the number of FAS decrease for this month.

Training and Technical:

Subject Area

Personal Profile System

Effective Facilitator

Community Service

Agency Supplying Expertise

MSU

MSU

Ecology Center (Environmental)

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and seed companies.

Program Deliverables:

- 1) (4) Field Day program workshops serving 150 farm operators.
- 2) 100 on site farm visits related to groundwater protection.
- 3) (1) 11"x14" newspaper page on groundwater protection information mailed to all farm operators in Jackson county.
- 4) Close 20 open wells.
- 5) Test 200 soil samples
- 6) Test 10 manure samples
- 7) Conduct 10-15 sprayer calibrations
- 8) Complete 20 Soil Stewardship plans

Groundwater Protection Project Timeline (Begin X) (End *)

	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
1. Assign Staff	x-----						---
2. Sprayer Calibration	x-----	-----*					
3. Program Promotion	x-----		-----*				
4. Create Council	x						
5. Identify Test Plots	x						
6. Test Plots		x-----					---
7. Farm Visits		x-----					---
8. Farm A. Syst	x-----						---
9. Nitrate Sampling				x-----	-----*		
10. Manure Testing		x-----					---
11. Well Closures		x-----					---
12. Demo. Field Days (4)					x-----	-----*	
13. Newspaper Mailing			x-----		-----*		
14. Program Evaluation		x-----					---

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Christina Coulon
Michigan NRCS
Rm 101
1405 S Harrison Rd.
E Lansing, MI 48823-5243

May 2, 1995

Dear Ms. Coulon:

I am sure you have had a chance to review Jodi Rogers's midterm review. As you can see, she has been very active in promoting Farm*A*Syst in the River Raisin Watershed as well as across the state.

I am very pleased to have Jodi working out of the Extension office in Lenawee County. She is a very approachable and dependable individual that has brought a lot of success to the program here. She is well on her way of reaching the goal of 100 farm assessments. The program is beginning to gain respect and notoriety as well as recognition in the community.



I would like to commend her for taking this program into her own arms and running with it to make it. This is the kind of drive and determination that will really make this program work and have the kind of impact that it needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brian Ehler", written over a horizontal line.

Brian Ehler
Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

**LENAWEE
COUNTY**
Cooperative
Extension Service
Human Services Building
1040 S. Winter Street, Suite 2020
Adrian, Michigan
48221-3867
517/264-5300
FAX: 517/264-5317

Michigan State University Extension
Programs and materials are open to all
without regard to race, color, national
origin, sex, disability, age or religion.

Michigan State University, U.S.
Department of Agriculture and
counties cooperating.
MSU is an affirmative-action equal
opportunity institution.

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MAY 9 1995

USDA NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
MICHIGAN

AMERICORPS QUARTERLY REPORT

Quarter Ending: April, 1995
Membership at the Beg. of
Quarter: 14

Membership at the End
of Quarter: 14

Number of Hours of Service 15740

Type of Service: USDA/AmeriCorps, providing Farm*A*Syst

Number of Hours of Training: 3188

Type of Training: Member development, team building

Progress Toward Meeting Community Service Objective:

No. of Farm*A* Systs Completed: 620 % of Goal %62

No. of People Planning Changes: 86 % of Goal %28

No. of People Hearing of Farm*A*Syst: 1,500,000 of Goal %100

Other Measures of Progress: _____

Primary Accomplishments: Wide recognition of Farm*A*Syst, program
spreading via word of mouth, continued requests for assessments

Projection for the next Quarter: 250 Assessments

Primary Challenges: Trying to get assessments during the planting
season is difficult.

Training and Technical:

Subject Area

Agency Supplying Expertise

Building Partnerships

NW RC&D

Program Evaluation

MSU Extension

AmeriCorps Service

Michigan Community Service Commission

Cluster Meetings

USDA/NRCS

Media Coverage:

TV/Radio	No. Reached	Printed News Items	Circulation
<u>commercials</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>Farmers Advance</u>	<u>50,000</u>
<u>PSA's</u>	<u>?</u>	<u>SCD Newsletters</u>	<u>5000</u>
		<u>MSU Extension Newsletters</u>	<u>47000</u>

Other Documentation: _____

Estimated Cost of the USDA/AmeriCorps Program in Michigan
FY-95 October 1994 -April 15, 1995

Training Materials, Travel, Meetings	\$4,520.46
Mileage and Vehicle Costs \$.32/mile + \$4000	\$14,626.88
Phone and Fax \$2.25/call	\$ 3,537.00
Total	\$22,684.34

Outside Financial Support (Michigan Department of Agriculture)	\$17,000.00
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Summary of the Activities of Michigan's AmeriCorps
Signature Service Project

Over 250 AmeriCorps members representing eleven teams attended the Signature Service Project in Detroit on April 28 and 29. The program began with a welcome address and a brief history of neighborhood relations in Detroit.

Each team made a presentation telling what they have been doing. Most of the teams were urban based and addressed urban problems. Chris was the lead speaker on our team. She began by stressing the importance of the AmeriCorps program in general and the USDA/ AmeriCorps team in particular. "Water," she said, "is one of those resources that we do not pay attention to until we do not have it. Protecting ground water is a very important responsibility."

WaChauna followed Chris to the podium. "As a city kid," she told her fellow AmeriCorps members, "I had no idea of what took place on a farm. AmeriCorps has provided me with the opportunity to work with farmers and help protect groundwater." Teresa saw AmeriCorps as an opportunity to "reconnect" with the farm culture. Her grandparents were farmers but her parent left the farm. She is now working with many farmers who were farming colleagues of her grandparents.

Sergio, Jodi, Kris and Ken also made short presentations. They all said that they believed the USDA/AmeriCorps ground water protection program was very important and that the AmeriCorps experience was wonderfully educational.

On Saturday, we began at 7:00 AM with calisthenics then proceeded to various work sites on the south west side of the city. The projects involved cleaning -vacant lots and graffiti, with members of the local community. About 3:00 PM on Saturday the groups retired for a reflection session. They tried to determine what they had learned from the experience and what impact they thought they had made on the community in which they worked.

The week end was well spent! We met other AmeriCorps and learned what they were doing and we participated in the National Day of Service.

Summary of the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources
and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Conference

The MANRRS conference was held on March 31 and April 1 at the Radisson Hotel. The theme of the conference was "MANRRS: A Global Vision". Over 500 people representing 75 universities, corporations, state, federal and voluntary organizations attended. The organizations represented were:

- Corporate: Cargill, ADM, Monsanto and Zeneca, Ciba Corporation, General Mills and DuPont Agricultural Products.
- State: Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources;
- Federal: US Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services, USDA Forest Services;
- Voluntary: Peace Corps and USDA/AmeriCorps.

Many of the presentations and workshops were geared toward preparing future professionals to work in the international arena. Most speakers felt that removal of trade barriers and the integration of economies make it necessary for all future leaders and professionals to be able to function in the international environment. 'Studying Abroad', 'Conducting Research Overseas' and 'The Importance of Learning a Foreign Language' were the topics of well-attended workshops.

We, at the USDA/AmeriCorps booth were pleasantly surprised by the high level of interest that was expressed in the program. We collected a list of about 45 names and addresses and we gave our cards and Alan's number to as many. Many of the students were about to graduate and think that volunteering with AmeriCorps will be a useful break between undergraduate and graduate school or permanent jobs.

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MDA

Michigan
Department
of
Agriculture

Pesticide and
Plant Pest
Management
Division

GROUNDWATER
PROGRAM
PA 247

FY'95 Grant
Proposal
Summary

Proposal Title: Jackson County Groundwater Protection Technical Assistance Program
GW-RFP-95

Primary Contact: JAMES WARDIUS, TECHNICIAN
JACKSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
211 WEST GANSON STREET
JACKSON MI 49201

Phone:
(517) 782-7404

Fax:
(517) 784-9119

Abstract:

According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Jackson County has 143,000 acres identified as "highly sensitive" to groundwater contamination. The county Health Department has identified over 200 known groundwater pollution sites in the county.

This grant will be used to provide technical assistance in well closures, fertilizer and pesticide reduction, information and education to support the Farm.A.Syst efforts already in progress in the county and to develop Soil Stewardship plans.

The Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District Technician, who is also a successful farmer, will provide leadership in securing cooperators for the fertilizer and pesticide reduction demonstration sites and well closures.

MSU-Extension Jackson County Agriculture Crop Specialist will make alternative pesticide recommendation and assist Americorp Farm.A.Syst member to provide information packet about the groundwater protection initiative.

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service District Conservationist will assist participants in developing Soil Stewardship plans.

Cooperating Organizations		Research Category Distribution	
Organization	Signature	Category	Percentage
REFER TO ATTACHED LETTERS OF SUPPORT		Groundwater Protection Practices	
		Risk Assessment	
		Pesticide Use	
		Artitudinal	
Technical Assistance Category Distribution		PSMP Alternatives	
		Decision Support	
		Aquifer Sensitivity	
Site Evaluation	80%		
Well Closure	20%	Educational Programing	

Jackson County Groundwater Protection
Technical Assistance Program

GW-RFP-95

Program Intent:

This proposed program will provide technical assistance to farm operators on information and education, Farm.A.Syst, well closures, fertility and pesticide management practices to preserve and protect the quality of Jackson county groundwater. The proposed program is a collaboration between Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District, MSU Extension, Jackson County Americorp's Farm-A-Syst program and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Program Need:

There are 134,000 acres of cropland planted in Jackson County, based on ASCS data. This does not include acreage in hay, or acreage planted by non-participating farmers. About one-half of the county has been identified as most vulnerable to groundwater contamination and the balance of the county is moderately vulnerable. The Michigan Department of Agriculture identifies 143,000 acres in Jackson County as being "Highly Sensitive" to groundwater contamination.

Health Department data show there are 200 known groundwater pollution sites in Jackson County (not including the city of Jackson). A significant number of pollution sites in Grass Lake township are due to high nitrate levels, which indicates agricultural practices as a likely cause of the pollution. Significant acreage in Jackson County consists of sandy soils (e.g. Spinks) and shallow aquifers, often less than 30 feet deep.

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JSWCD has a conservation technician who has worked with farm operators in doing soil testing, integrated pest management, no-till practices, well closure, pesticide jug recycling and pesticide recommendation. About 70% of the approximately 800 farm operators in the county use the services of the District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and MSU Extension-Jackson County co-share and support an Americorp member assigned to the Farm.a.Syst program.

Cooperators in this proposed project are MSU Extension-Jackson County, Americorp Farm.A.Syst, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Jackson County Farm Bureau, Jackson County Health Department, Napoleon Elevator, American Cyanamid, Monsanto, and ICI Seeds (Zeneca Corporation).

Specific Objectives:

1. Reduce fertilizer use on 50-75 farmsteads by 15%
2. Over a 2 year period 10% of farm operators will increase use of alternative pesticide application practices.
3. Reduce usage of Alchlor and Metolachlor by 20,000 pounds over a 2 year period.
4. Provide Farm.A.Syst program support including promotion, publicity, technical support, education for the Americorp member. Provide Farm.A.Syst programing to landowners after Americorp program is completed.
5. Assist 20 farm operators in closing open wells.
6. Establish 4 demonstration sites, around the county comparing different methods for pesticide, and fertilizer use.
7. Hold 4 "field days" programs at the demonstration sites reaching a total of 150 farm operators.
8. Assist 50 farm operators with on-site soil nitrate testing.

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9. Assist 20 farm operators in proper sprayer calibrations through on site visits.
10. NRCS District Conservationist will assist 20 farm operators in the preparation of Soil Stewardship plans to implement farmstead best management practices that were identified through Farm.A.Syst program.

Protocol:

The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District will assign an experienced Conservation Technician to this project, upon receipt of the grant.

A groundwater protection council, made up of farm operators, land owners, businesses, and public officials will be created to provide advice and guidance to the project.

At least four sites will be secured to use as field demonstration sites for alternative pesticide application practices, and nitrogen management practices.

During the farm site visits a variety of services will be provided including: Soil nitrate testing, identification of open wells, pesticide sprayer calibrations, manure nitrate testing, and identification of best management practices which can be implemented such as fertilizer and pesticide management, RUP record keeping, manure management, and well abandonment. Farm.A.Syst program information will be provided at all farm site visits.

The USDA District Conservationist will work with farmers who express an interest in developing Soil Stewardship plans.

Field day programs will be scheduled during July and August at the demonstration sites so that producers can see the impact of different pesticide and nitrogen management practices.

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BUDGET

<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Grant Funds</u>	<u>Other</u>
Conservation Technician 24 weeks, 40 hrs/week 960 hrs. @ \$10.25/hr.	\$ 9,840.00	
Fringe Benefits (Workman Comp, U.I, FICA) . . 15%	1,476.00	
MSU Extension Crop Specialist 10% FTE		In Kind
Secretary 20% FTE		In Kind
X Americorp Volunteer		In Kind
Operations		
Mileage 7,000 miles @ .29/mile	2,030.00	
Photo Copying & Printing	1,500.00	
Soil Testing	1,500.00	
Manure Testing	250.00	
Well Plugging	6,250.00	
Telephone	600.00	
Postage	2,000.00	
Educational Materials	500.00	
(4) Field Days-Program Expenses, including tent, rentals & meals	2,000.00	
Photography	500.00	
Demonstration Plot Supplies and chemicals	1,200.00	
Total Direct Costs	\$29,646.00	
Total Project	\$29,646.00	



USDA/AmeriCorps

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

February 7, 1995

Honorable Pat Roberts
U.S. House of Representatives
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1601

Dear Congressman Roberts:

By copy of this letter, we are inviting you and/or an assistant to stop at one or more of our AmeriCorps/USDA sites, if only for a brief time, and talk with our AmeriCorps members and observe them at work.

Two types of AmeriCorps/USDA teams work in Kansas: Rural Development Corps and Public Lands and Environment Corps. The Rural Development Corps consists of six wetland and riparian teams headquartered at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) area offices in Dodge City, Hutchinson, Emporia, Manhattan, Hays, and Topeka. In addition, two members serve in Abilene and Salina. The member for watershed area delineation is mapping the natural drainage areas of Kansas watersheds for use by county, state, and federal agencies. Agricultural Waste Management Systems are being designed for producers by the Abilene member. Currently, there are nineteen members on the rural development teams.

The Environmental Corps consists of five teams under the direct supervision of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. These teams, with twenty-one members total, are located at the following state reservoirs: Webster, Kanopolis, Glen Elder, Milford, and Perry. Members at the state reservoirs are repairing damage in the wildlife and park areas created by the 1993 floods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James N. Habiger".

James N. Habiger *ACTING FOR*
State Conservationist



USDA/AmeriCorps

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

February 7, 1995

Honorable Jan Meyers
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meyers:

By copy of this letter, we are inviting you and/or an assistant to stop at one or more of our AmeriCorps/USDA sites, if only for a brief time, and talk with our AmeriCorps members and observe them at work.

Two types of AmeriCorps/USDA teams work in Kansas: Rural Development Corps and Public Lands and Environment Corps. The Rural Development Corps consists of six wetland and riparian teams headquartered at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) area offices in Dodge City, Hutchinson, Emporia, Manhattan, Hays, and Topeka. In addition, two members serve in Abilene and Salina. The member for watershed area delineation is mapping the natural drainage areas of Kansas watersheds for use by county, state, and federal agencies. Agricultural Waste Management Systems are being designed for producers by the Abilene member. Currently, there are nineteen members on the rural development teams.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James N. Habiger', written in a cursive style.

James N. Habiger *ACTING FOR*
State Conservationist



USDA/AmeriCorps

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

February 7, 1995

Honorable Sam Brownback
U.S. House of Representatives
1313 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brownback:

By copy of this letter, we are inviting you and/or an assistant to stop at one or more of our AmeriCorps/USDA sites, if only for a brief time, and talk with our AmeriCorps members and observe them at work.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James N. Habiger'. Below the signature, the words 'ACTING FOR' are printed in a bold, sans-serif font.

ACTING FOR

James N. Habiger
State Conservationist



USDA/AmeriCorps

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

February 7, 1995

Honorable Bob Dole
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dole:

By copy of this letter, we are inviting you and/or an assistant to stop at one or more of our AmeriCorps/USDA sites, if only for a brief time, and talk with our AmeriCorps members and observe them at work.

Two types of AmeriCorps/USDA teams work in Kansas: Rural Development Corps and Public Lands and Environment Corps. The Rural Development Corps consists of six wetland and riparian teams headquartered at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) area offices in Dodge City, Hutchinson, Emporia, Manhattan, Hays, and Topeka. In addition, two members serve in Abilene and Salina. The member for watershed area delineation is mapping the natural drainage areas of Kansas watersheds for use by county, state, and federal agencies. Agricultural Waste Management Systems are being designed for producers by the Abilene member. Currently, there are nineteen members on the rural development teams.

The Environmental Corps consists of five teams under the direct supervision of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. These teams, with twenty-one members total, are located at the following state reservoirs: Webster, Kanopolis, Glen Elder, Milford, and Perry. Members at the state reservoirs are repairing damage in the wildlife and park areas created by the 1993 floods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James N. Habiger".

ACTING FOR

James N. Habiger
State Conservationist



USDA/AmeriCorps

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

February 6, 1995

Honorable Nancy Landon Kassebaum
United States Senate
302 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kassebaum:

By copy of this letter, we are inviting you and/or an assistant to stop at one or more of our AmeriCorps/USDA sites, if only for a brief time, and talk with our AmeriCorps members and observe them at work during your scheduled Kansas tour in March.

Two types of AmeriCorps/USDA teams work in Kansas: Rural Development Corps and Public Lands and Environment Corps. The Rural Development Corps consists of six wetland and riparian teams headquartered at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) area offices in Dodge City, Hutchinson, Emporia, Manhattan, Hays, and Topeka. In addition, two members serve in Abilene and Salina. The member for watershed area delineation is mapping the natural drainage areas of Kansas watersheds for use by county, state, and federal agencies. Agricultural Waste Management Systems are being designed for producers by the Abilene member. Currently, there are nineteen members on the rural development teams.

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Honorable Nancy Landon Kassebaum

February 6, 1995

Page 2

The Rural Development Corps, in addition to providing community service locally, is identifying wetland and riparian areas as mandated by the 1985/1990 farm bills. The rural development members, all but one who have graduated from college, are sharing their work with producers and students in their respective work areas.

Sincerely,



ACTING FOR

James N. Habiger
State Conservationist

cc:

Nancy Landon Kassebaum's Office, 155 N. Market, Suite 120, Wichita, KS

PAUL D. COVERDELL
GEORGIA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1004

May 8, 1995

Mr. Joel Berg
Director, Office of National Service
Department of Agriculture
14th and Constitution, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Berg:

Thank you for the information you recently sent to my office. It will serve as a valuable resource as we determine the effect of legislation that comes before the United States Senate.

I appreciate your effort to keep me informed of your position on this issue. Again, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paul D. Coverdell". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "P" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Paul D. Coverdell
United States Senator

PDC/mwm

Senate Committee Rosters

Agriculture

(9 Republicans; 8 Democrats)

Republican Members

Richard G. Lugar, Ind., chairman
Bob Dole, Kan. ✓
Jesse Helms, N.C. ✓
Thad Cochran, Miss. ✓
Mitch McConnell, Ky. ✓
Larry E. Craig, Idaho ✓
Paul Coverdell, Ga. ✓
* Rick Santorum, Pa. ✓
John W. Warner, Va. ✓

Democratic Members

Patrick J. Leahy, Vt., ranking ✓
David H. Pryor, Ark. ✓
Howell Heflin, Ala. ✓
Tom Harkin, Iowa ✓
Kent Conrad, N.D. ✓
Thomas A. Daschle, S.D. ✓
Max Baucus, Mont. ✓
Bob Kerrey, Neb. ✓

Appropriations

(15 Republicans; 13 Democrats)

Republican Members

Mark O. Hatfield, Ore., chairman ✓
Ted Stevens, Alaska ✓
Thad Cochran, Miss. ✓
Arlen Specter, Pa. ✓
Pete V. Dominici, N.M. ✓
Phil Gramm, Texas ✓
Christopher S. Bond, Mo. ✓
Slade Gorton, Wash. ✓
Mitch McConnell, Ky. ✓
Connie Mack, Fla. ✓
Conrad Burns, Mont. ✓
Richard C. Shelby, Ala. ✓
James M. Jeffords, Vt. ✓
Judd Gregg, N.H. ✓
Robert F. Bennett, Utah ✓

Democratic Members

Robert C. Byrd, W.Va., ranking ✓
Daniel K. Inouye, Hawaii ✓
Ernest F. Hollings, S.C. ✓
J. Bennett Johnston, La. ✓
Patrick J. Leahy, Vt. ✓
Dale Bumpers, Ark. ✓
Frank R. Lautenberg, N.J. ✓
Tom Harkin, Iowa ✓
Barbara A. Mikulski, Md. ✓
Harry Reid, Nev. ✓
Bob Kerrey, Neb. ✓
Herb Kohl, Wis. ✓
Patty Murray, Wash. ✓

Armed Services

(11 Republicans; 10 Democrats)

Republican Members

Strom Thurmond, S.C., chairman ✓
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William S. Cohen, Maine ✓
John McCain, Ariz. ✓
Trent Lott, Miss. ✓
Daniel R. Coats, Ind. ✓
Robert C. Smith, N.H. ✓
Dirk Kempthorne, Idaho ✓
Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas ✓
* James M. Inhofe, Okla. ✓
* Rick Santorum, Pa. ✓

Democratic Members

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Jim Exon, Neb. ✓
Carl Levin, Mich. ✓
Edward M. Kennedy, Mass. ✓
Jeff Bingaman, N.M. ✓
John Glenn, Ohio ✓
Robert C. Byrd, W.Va. ✓
Charles S. Robb, Va. ✓
Joseph I. Lieberman, Conn. ✓
Richard H. Bryan, Nev. ✓

Banking

(9 Republicans; 7 Democrats)

Republican Members

Alfonse M. D'Amato, N.Y., chairman ✓
Phil Gramm, Texas ✓
Richard C. Shelby, Ala. ✓
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Connie Mack, Fla. ✓
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* Rod Grams, Minn. ✓
* Bill Frist, Tenn. ✓

Democratic Members

Paul S. Sarbanes, Md., ranking ✓
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Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Colo. ✓
Carol Moseley-Braun, Ill. ✓
Patty Murray, Wash. ✓

Budget

(12 Republicans; 10 Democrats)

Republican Members

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(Members to be named later)

Democratic Members

Jim Exon, Neb., ranking ✓
Ernest F. Hollings, S.C. ✓
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Frank R. Lautenberg, N.J. ✓
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Kent Conrad, N.D. ✓
Christopher J. Dodd, Conn. ✓
Paul S. Sarbanes, Md. ✓
Barbara Boxer, Calif. ✓
Patty Murray, Wash. ✓

Commerce

(10 Republicans; 9 Democrats)

Republican Members

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Ted Stevens, Alaska ✓
John McCain, Ariz. ✓
Conrad Burns, Mont. ✓
Slade Gorton, Wash. ✓
Trent Lott, Miss. ✓
Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas ✓
* Olympia J. Snow, Maine ✓
* John Ashcroft, Mo. ✓

Democratic Members

Ernest F. Hollings, S.C., ranking ✓
Daniel K. Inouye, Hawaii ✓
Wendell H. Ford, Ky. ✓
Jim Exon, Neb. ✓
John D. Rockefeller IV, W.Va. ✓
John Kerry, Mass. ✓
John B. Breaux, La. ✓
Richard H. Bryan, Nev. ✓
Bryon L. Dorgan, N.D. ✓

Energy

(10 Republicans; 8 Democrats)

Republican Members

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(Members to be named later)

Democratic Members

J. Bennett Johnston, ranking ✓
Dale Bumpers, Ark. ✓
Wendell H. Ford, Ky. ✓
Bill Bradley, N.J. ✓
Jeff Bingaman, N.M. ✓
Daniel K. Akaka, Hawaii ✓
Paul D. Wellstone, Minn. ✓
Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Colo. ✓

Environment

(9 Republicans; 7 Democrats)

Republican Members

John H. Chafee, R.I., chairman
(Members to be named later)

Democratic Members

Max Baucus, Mont., ranking ✓
Daniel Patrick Moynihan, N.Y. ✓
Frank R. Lautenberg, N.J. ✓
Harry Reid, Nev. ✓
Bob Graham, Fla. ✓
Joseph P. Lieberman, Conn. ✓
Barbara Boxer, Calif. ✓

Finance

(11 Republicans; 9 Democrats)

Republican Members

Bob Packwood, Ore., chairman ✓
Bob Dole, Kan. ✓
William V. Roth Jr., Del. ✓
John H. Chafee, R.I. ✓
Charles E. Grassley, Iowa ✓
Orrin G. Hatch, Utah ✓

Democratic Members

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, N.Y., ranking ✓
Max Baucus, Mont. ✓
Bill Bradley, N.J. ✓
David Pryor, Ark. ✓
John D. Rockefeller IV, W.Va. ✓

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TO: Joel Berg / Elizabeth Jones

LOCATION: USDA

FAX #: 720-4614

PHONE #: _____

FROM: Steve Selby

FAX #: (202) 565-2781

TELEPHONE #: (202) 606-5000, EXT. 480

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NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) 9

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 312 provides that no funds can be used for Americorps.

Section 313 provides for the dissolution of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation on April 1, 1996, and for the transfer of certain PADC responsibilities to other agencies.

Section 314 relates to the Columbia River Basin Ecoregion Assessment.

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

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

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Steve

7/7/95

Important

NOTE:

I missed Forest Service (AmeriCorps) report language when I reviewed the draft report. See Page 73. FYI Obey's Dissenting Views (last page) re: volunteerism.

Patty

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104TH CONGRESS 1st Session	}	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	}	REPORT 104-173
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1996

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

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

R E P O R T

together with

DISSENTING VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 1977]

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

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91-751		

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force, work group or special assignment for the purpose of implementing the reorganization.

In addition, the Committee is concerned that the Service has been creating an excess of special assistants and other positions that may not be completely necessary for the efficient functioning of the Service. It is the sense of the Committee that there should be as few such positions as possible, and these positions should not impact on the limited resources that are available to operate the Service, particularly the parks themselves. The Committee directs the Service to report in its fiscal year 1997 budget on the history of funding and staffing associated with the reorganization plan and the current and future costs associated with task forces, work groups and special assistants.

While the Committee was unable to earmark funds for the Little River Canyon Field School, the Committee notes that significant long-term savings, projected at \$4 million over 20 years, can be achieved through an innovative cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the Little River Canyon Field School to share facilities and personnel. The Committee encourages the National Park Service to actively seek such an arrangement.

The Construction budget is \$114,868,000 which is \$65,015,000 below the 1996 request and \$52,820,000 below the enacted level. Similarly, the land acquisition budget is \$14,300,000, reflecting a decrease of \$68,396,000 below the request and \$73,073,000 below the 1995 level. New program funds are not provided for State Assistance Programs, however, \$1.5 million remains available for Administrative Expenses. Authority is granted to the Secretary of the Interior to enable funds to be transferred from Interior land acquisition accounts in order to fund the highest priority projects. The Committee urges the Department to continue funding the South Florida Restoration project.

The Service should also carefully note the section in the front of the report entitled Improving Efficiencies through Consolidation and Procedural Restructuring of Land Management Agencies. The recommendations and directions aimed at achieving the greatest possible savings and efficiencies through close coordination with the other federal land and resource management agencies will hopefully result in a federal land management structure that works better and costs less. The Committee's allocation over the next several years will necessitate a broad and bold rethinking of how best to manage our nation's public land into the next century.

Bill language has been included in Title III which transfers lands, including open spaces, plazas and sidewalks, currently under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia to the National Park Service.

The National Park Service currently performs basic maintenance along Pennsylvania Avenue and the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation has used its funds to enhance maintenance and fund special events. The National Park Service will now be solely responsible for providing these functions with the exception of maintaining Pennsylvania Avenue itself which continues to be the responsibility of the District of Columbia.

The Service should also note that there is a provision in Title III of the bill which states that none of the funds appropriated in this

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bill may be used to implement the Americorps program. Specifically, the Committee has denied the \$1,750,000 request for funding of Americorps projects at National Park Service sites. Given the size of the federal deficit and the recent mandate from the American people to downsize the government, the Committee believes that all activities not central to the basic operation of the National Parks should be discontinued.

The General Provisions, Department of the Interior section contains a provision relating to the Presidio. The language states that any funds appropriated in this bill which are not obligated as of the date on which the Presidio Trust is established by an Act of Congress shall be transferred immediately to and available only for the Presidio Trust.

The Committee has retained only \$1 for expenditure of funds for the Mojave National Preserve and has transferred \$600,000 and 12 FTE's to BLM to continue operations.

The Committee is concerned about reports of fee inequities charged to users of the Blue Ridge Parkway and encourages the Superintendent to resolve any bias in this area. The Committee expects fees charged to be distributed fairly and equitably among all users of the Parkway.

The Committee has provided funding for the National Council on Traditional Arts at the 1995 funding level of \$175,000.

The Committee is aware that the National Park Service has under consideration a proposal with a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and a private entity to build the National Museum of the American Civil War, which Congress designated Gettysburg as the official site in 1989. The Committee further understands that this will be the first private-public partnership with the Park Service on constructing a national museum. The Committee supports and encourages efforts to involve the private sector in these efforts, with appropriate Park supervision of the project. As federal discretionary funding continues to decrease, the Committee realizes that these types of private-public partnerships become more important to enable these projects to be undertaken.

Funding for the Urban Parks Program is not provided. As stated in H.R. 1158, this program is a state or local responsibility. The Committee strongly urges the Service not to consider funding for this program in the fiscal year 1997 budget.

In order to provide for an increase in the parks operating budget an overall reduction of 9.3% to the remaining Park Service accounts was necessary. The specifics are provided under each heading.

Bill language is included in Title III, General Provisions, establishing a recreational fee test program that allows fees to be charged at 10 to 30 sites or areas and provides for the use of a portion of those fees, without further appropriation, for facility or habitat enhancement, operation, or interpretation, with a focus on reducing the backlog of repair and maintenance. This fee demonstration program is explained in more detail in the front of this report.

Resources stewardship.—The committee recommends an appropriation of \$172,225,000 for this activity. All programs should con-

The Committee recommends no appropriation for public development.

LAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

Appropriation enacted, 1995	
Budget estimate, 1996	\$1,388,000
Recommended, 1996	
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 1995	
Budget estimate, 1996	- 1,388,000

The Committee recommends no appropriation for public development.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

Appropriation enacted, 1995	\$26,609,000
Budget estimate, 1996	28,707,000
Recommended, 1996	28,707,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 1995	+2,098,000
Budget estimate, 1996	

In 1980 Congress passed legislation creating a 65 member Holocaust Memorial Council with the mandate to create and oversee a living memorial/museum to victims of holocausts. The museum opened in April 1993. Construction costs for the museum have come solely from donated funds being raised by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Campaign and appropriated funds have been used for planning and development of programmatic components, overall administrative support and annual commemorative observances. Since the opening of the museum, appropriated funds have been provided to pay for the ongoing operating costs of the museum as authorized by Public Law 102-529.

The Committee recommends the budget request of \$28,707,000 for the Holocaust Memorial Council, an increase of \$2,098,000 above the fiscal year 1995 level.

Public interest in the Holocaust Memorial Museum, as evidenced by the demand for tickets to view the museum, has been overwhelming. The Council has reported to the Committee that museum visitation has been roughly four times the projected level. This has had the effect of inflicting four years worth of wear and tear on the museum in its first year of operation. The increase recommended by the Committee is needed to meet the costs associated with the inordinately large number of visitors and the demands they are placing on the operation of the museum including additional guard services and museum maintenance.

(TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS)

The Committee applauds the Departments of the Interior and Energy on their efforts to enhance educational and career opportunities for minority students in the areas of science and technology. The Committee strongly encourages the Departments to include participation by Hispanic-Serving Institutions in any current or future plans to increase its predesignated or targeted research, development, and education funds.

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kind of interesting -

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WASHINGTON EDITION

Los Angeles Times

Friday
May 26
1995

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AN EDITION OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Senate OKs Blueprint to Balance the Budget

■ **Deficit:** Plan, pledging no tax cuts, passes on 57-42 vote.
Democrats are rebuffed in bid to shift spending priorities.

By JONATHAN PETERSON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—The Senate Thursday approved a thick blueprint of spending limits aimed at balancing the federal budget by the year 2002, as Republicans pressed their assault on the deficit.

The Senate plan—in effect a road map to a balanced budget without the details—passed, 57 to 42, after more than 50 unsuccessful Democratic amendments intended to change spending priorities. Three Democrats joined the GOP in the final vote.

But in a pointed departure from House budget guidelines approved last week, the Senate version stopped short of pledging any tax cuts, setting the stage for hard bargaining between the Republican-led chambers in coming days.

"Today the Senate will make a statement and we'll make history in the process," declared Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.), moments before the climactic vote. "We will finally begin to unpile the deficits. We will finally begin to speak for the future. And we'll do it with one word. Leadership."

All week long, Democrats tried in vain to alter the budget, complaining that the GOP plan was unfair to the needy, the elderly and other Americans who rely on the government for student aid, health care and other benefits. California Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, both Democrats, voted against the measure.

"This budget is the broadest retreat from the American dream I've ever seen in my time as an adult," Boxer said in a last-minute floor speech.

The White House did not find the budget plan to its liking. "We must balance the budget, but there is a right way and a wrong way," White House Chief of Staff Leon E.

Panetta said Thursday night. "The Senate budget is a textbook example of the wrong way."

President Clinton has said he would compromise on the budget but not if the final plan includes tax cuts for the rich, education cuts and certain reductions in projected Medicare spending.

While many Democrats assailed the Senate blueprint for cutting spending, it actually would allow total outlays to increase during the next seven years but at a more modest, 3% pace instead of the 5% rate that otherwise would be expected. At the same time, the

Please see BUDGET, A5

Ethics Committee Deadlocked Over Gingrich Issues

By MICHAEL ROSS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—After months of secretive deliberations, the House Ethics Committee is deadlocked over how to handle ethics complaints against House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.).

Sources familiar with the deliberations said Thursday that the panel is paralyzed by an extraordinary degree of partisanship. Although it has five Republicans and five Democrats, the committee traditionally has been expected to consider ethics complaints in a nonpartisan manner.

While Rep. Nancy L. Johnson (R-Conn.)—who chairs the panel—insists that the committee is making progress in its closed-door

Please see GINGRICH, A5

...the bill, the majority reserved Domenici gleefully presented Dole and Republican members of his budget panel with a set of perfectly balanced scales, a

key, said Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), one of three Democrats to support the GOP budget resolution. Sens. Charles S. Robb of Virginia and Bob Kerrey of Nebraska were the other

less. While the Senate would eliminate the Department of Commerce, the House also would place the departments of Education and Energy on Death Row.

weakest among us, largely by tightening tax provisions affecting corporations.

Times staff writers Melissa Healy and Janet Hook contributed to this story.

104TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES {

REPORT
104-124

MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDI-
TIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND MAKING RESCISSIONS FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1995, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MAY 15, 1995.—Ordered to be printed

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

(CONFERENCE REPORT)

(To accompany H.R. 1158)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1158) "making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes," having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

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

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to provide emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance, for anti-terrorism initiatives, for assistance in the recovery from the tragedy that occurred at Oklahoma City, and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes, namely:

assistance in instances only where the use of tenant-based assistance is determined to be infeasible by the Secretary.

"(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall be effective for actions initiated by the Secretary on or before September 30, 1995."

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(RESCISSION)

Of the funds made available under this heading in Public Law 103-327, \$500,000 are rescinded.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND

PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(RESCISSION)

Of the funds made available under this heading in Public Law 103-327, \$124,000,000 are rescinded.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS OPERATING EXPENSES

(RESCISSION)

Of the funds made available under this heading in Public Law 103-327, \$210,000,000 are rescinded: Provided, That none of the funds remaining for obligation during fiscal year 1995 may be used for national awards to Federal agencies.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

(RESCISSION)

Of the funds made available under this heading in Public Law 103-327, \$14,635,000 are rescinded.

ABATEMENT, CONTROL, AND COMPLIANCE

(RESCISSION)

Of the funds made available under this heading in Public Law 103-327, \$9,806,805 are rescinded: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Environmental Protection Agency shall not be required to site a computer to support the regional acid deposition monitoring program in the Bay City, Michigan, vicinity.

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JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

The managers on the part of the House and the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1158) making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes, submit the following joint statement to the House and the Senate in explanation of the effects of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report.

Report language included by the House in the report accompanying H.R. 1158 (H. Rept. 104-70) and the report accompanying H.R. 1159 (H. Rept. 104-71) which is not changed by the report of the Senate (S. Rept. 104-17), and Senate Report language which is not changed by the conference are approved by the committee of conference. The statement of the managers while repeating some report language for emphasis, is not intended to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.

ENACTING CLAUSE

The conference agreement contains an amended enacting clause that reflects the inclusion of emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery operations in response to the tragedy that occurred at Oklahoma City and for anti-terrorism initiatives. Neither the House nor Senate bills included these purposes in their respective enacting clauses.

TITLE I—SUPPLEMENTALS AND RESCISSIONS

CHAPTER I

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

The conference agreement transfers \$2,218,000 back to the Agricultural Research Service as proposed by the Senate. These funds were appropriated to the Agricultural Research Service and subsequently transferred to a new account, "Nutrition Initiatives," established by the Department. The Food and Nutrition Service can continue to fund "Nutrition Initiatives" from funds made available to the Service, such as those for Dietary Guidelines. The House bill contained no similar provision.

(61)

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128

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Rescinds \$500,000, as proposed by both the House and the Senate. This rescission terminates the Board before members have sworn the oath of office and prior to expenditure of any funds, and is consistent with the rescission and termination proposal made by the President in the February 6, 1995 messages.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND

PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Rescinds \$124,000,000 from this account as proposed by the House. The Senate has proposed a rescission of \$88,000,000. In order to limit the growth of government and achieve the same goals, the conferees agree to provide \$36,000,000 to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to implement Bank Enterprise Act (BEA) incentives to promote community-based financial institutions.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS OPERATING EXPENSES

Rescinds \$210,000,000 of National and Community Service Programs Operating Expenses funds, instead of \$416,110,000 as proposed by the House and \$105,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. This action will permit the Corporation to maintain the fiscal year 1994 funding level of \$365,000,000 in the current fiscal year. The conferees have agreed to add language to prohibit the remaining fiscal year 1995 appropriation from being used for national awards to Federal agencies. This action is taken to increase program participation by traditional private voluntary organizations such as the Girl Scouts, the American Red Cross, and the Future Farmers of America.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The conferees propose to rescind \$14,635,000 of fiscal year 1995 appropriations, the same as proposed by the House and \$5,000,000 more than that proposed by the Senate. In addition to the \$3,635,000 proposed in the President's February 6, 1995 messages for academic training (\$1,000,000), neurotoxicity research (\$700,000), health effects research (\$600,000), and procurement savings (\$1,335,000), the conferees have proposed to rescind \$6,000,000 of funds appropriated in fiscal year 1995 for the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program and \$5,000,000 of unspecified reductions. The conferees expect the Agency to submit specific proposals, in a format consistent with normal

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In America

BOB HERBERT

Good Works? Bah!

Philip Edward Wu Jr. is an AmeriCorps member who has been working with Habitat for Humanity, helping to build homes in Georgia and Florida. He is a religious man who spent four years in the Army and has now dedicated his life to helping others.

"God gave me the mind and the heart to serve," he says.

This is tough turf for a reporter to cover because idealism is out and cynicism is in. Anything you write about Philip Wu is likely to sound as clichéd and corny as a reprise of John Kennedy's adjuration (so stirring in 1961) to "ask not what your country can do for you" etc.

"When I first joined AmeriCorps, I knew it was right," Mr. Wu said. "But I never imagined it would lead me into the experience I'm having. The 23 AmeriCorps members in Miami have [helped to build] 31 houses, and 40 more are completely framed."

In early May, he said, "several hundred AmeriCorps members put all our skills together to build 10 homes in five days in Americus, Ga." He described how one of the new homeowners, a fellow named Isaiah, "shed tears" of joy and disbelief as he watched the walls of his new house going up.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, a late-20th-century gamble that there is still a spark of idealism left in a country that once defined the term. Like most of the program's 20,000 members, Mr. Wu puts in long days of very hard work for very little recompense. AmeriCorps members receive a \$600-a-month allowance and health benefits worth \$1,200 a year. After one year with the program they are entitled to a voucher worth \$4,725 that can be used only for education expenses.

With this minimal financial support, AmeriCorps members across the U.S. get up each morning, roll up their sleeves and start working at tasks that are guaranteed to make this a better country by nightfall. In rural Kentucky, reading scores have been raised since AmeriCorps members began giving remedial help to pupils. In the Pacific Northwest, AmeriCorps members are engaged in pollution cleanup and other projects aimed at replenishing the salmon run in the Columbia River. In the Overtown section of Miami, AmeriCorps workers cleaned up a

vacant lot that had been a hangout for drug dealers and turned it into a community garden. In Texas, a sustained effort by AmeriCorps resulted in the immunization of more than 100,000 infants.

In an era of funhouse values, AmeriCorps has been a magnet for young people who take their citizenship responsibilities seriously, and who express their patriotism quietly, through good works that foster a sense of community and, yes, even brotherhood.

Gingrich bashes AmeriCorps.

Naturally, the rabid leadership of the Republican Party feels AmeriCorps must be destroyed. House Speaker Newt Gingrich was quoted in Newsweek magazine as saying: "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service. It is coerced voluntarism. ... It's gimmickry."

The Speaker's sentiments are being turned into brutal reality by the Republican-controlled budget process. The current budget for AmeriCorps is \$375 million, which is a minuscule portion of the overall Federal budget, but which was intended to allow the program to expand to 33,000 members. But budget committees in both the House and the Senate have approved fiscal plans that reduce AmeriCorps funding to zero. If the plans become law, AmeriCorps will be wiped out. Its 20,000 members will be asked to pack up their ideals and go home.

What will be left will be the echo of an experiment. Somewhere in Americus, Ga., a fellow named Isaiah will remember the effort of a fellow named Philip Edward Wu Jr., who once helped to build him a home. In inner cities there will be youngsters who will remember the nice man or the nice lady who held their hands and walked them safely to school through a dangerous neighborhood. In some rural areas, elderly residents will remember the knock at the door that signaled the arrival of a hot meal, a kind word and companionship.

These are things, the Republicans tell us, that we cannot afford. □

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The Washington Times

WASHINGTON, D.C., MONDAY, MAY 22, 1995 **

GOP targets Clinton's pet program

Pledge of veto draws backlash

By David R. Sands
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

There was little enthusiasm in Rep. Jerry Lewis's voice as the California Republican proclaimed what could be the death sentence on one of President Clinton's proudest accomplishments.

With the president readying a veto of a \$16.4 billion spending-cuts package for 1995, Mr. Lewis, a nine-term representative, all but promised that the upshot would be no funding in the fiscal 1996 budget for Mr. Clinton's AmeriCorps national volunteer service program.

Never a big favorite with Republicans, AmeriCorps "will be a larger target than ever before," Mr. Lewis observed during floor debate on the spending cuts bill last week.

"That program will be a victim of this debate and this veto," he said. "The writing is on the wall."

Even Republicans conceded Mr. Clinton will likely win the veto battle. The House passed the cuts bill on a 235-189 vote, far short of the two-thirds margin needed to override the veto.

But GOP congressional leaders said the Clinton administration stands to lose the budget war, with bigger cuts in Mr. Clinton's pet programs on tap in the coming round of appropriations hearings for the fiscal 1996 budget.

Mr. Lewis's opinion matters: He is one of 13 members of the "College of Cardinals" — the powerful subcommittee chairmen of the House Appropriations Committee. They exert immense influence on where many of the cuts will come in hundreds of government programs GOP leaders have targeted in the race to balance the budget by 2002.

By way of illustration, nearly half of the proposed cuts in current-year spending — for public housing, for AmeriCorps, for the Environmental Protection Agency — went through Mr. Lewis's Veterans Administration, Housing and Urban Development subcommittee.

AmeriCorps "will be a victim of this . . . veto. The writing is on the wall."

— Rep. Jerry Lewis

Longtime incumbents on a committee that traditionally values bipartisanship, the cardinals tend to shun the fire-breathing fervor of the newer GOP members. But several offered unusually harsh critiques of Mr. Clinton's role in the

see VETO, page A14

VETO

From page A1

spending-cuts debate, promising that the administration's tactics will cost them.

"The president's unwillingness to be at the table in these negotiations is irresponsible in the extreme," said the usually low-key Rep. John Edward Porter, Illinois Republican and chairman of the Appropriations panel that recommended heavy cuts in education and labor programs supported by the White House.

"His veto threat is incomprehensible," he said.

Rep. Jim Ross Lightfoot, Iowa Republican and the cardinal who is chairman of the Treasury, Postal Service and general government subcommittee, charged that the administration refused to share information on federal building projects that could be shelved, a charge denied by Budget Director Alice Rivlin.

Whether the White House had warned congressional budget-writers of its objections to the spending-cuts bill remained a matter of sharp partisan dispute.

Rep. Robert L. Livingston, Louisiana Republican and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said that "after four months of silence" Mr. Clinton waited until a Senate-House conference finished work on the massive package before issuing his veto threat.

But White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said Mr. Clinton had consistently made clear his objections to cuts in education, social and welfare programs in the bill.

"The president's position on these issues has been stated time and again," Mr. Panetta maintained in a letter to Mr. Livingston. "I am mystified as to how you could have mistaken it."

Republicans reacted angrily to Mr. Clinton's suggestion that they had killed his social and education reforms while keeping money in for "pork." The GOP members noted the spending cuts bill targeted only programs and projects that had been passed by a Democratic-controlled Congress and signed into law by Mr. Clinton himself. The "pork" GOP legislators failed to target, in other words, had been put there by the Democrats.

Issuing the most explicit warning was Rep. Bud Shuster, Pennsylvania Republican and chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The White House singled out for criticism 10 highway construction projects worth more than \$200 million in Mr. Shuster's district left untouched by the spending cuts bill.

But Mr. Shuster challenged the White House's calculations and

"The president's unwillingness to be at the table in these negotiations is irresponsible in the extreme. His veto threat is incomprehensible."

— Rep. John Edward Porter

pledged to remember the charges when new highway funding projects come before his panel.

"If this is the way they want to treat transportation, to politicize it," he said on the House floor Thursday evening, "we will have to respond in kind."

The Senate is expected to pass the spending-cuts bill this week, but already heavy lifting has begun on spending levels for the fiscal year 1996 budget. Mr. Livingston said a veto would kill any chances to get a head start on deficit reduction this year.

"If we postpone these choices until 1996, it just means all these causes are going to be that much harder hit," he said.

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UNITED
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DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

[Handwritten signature]

Copy

February 7, 1996

To: David Carlin

From: Joel Berg

Subject: **Successes Documented by the USDA/AmeriCorps First Annual Report**

Attached is the first annual report of the USDA/AmeriCorps, which documents remarkable accomplishments of the program. **My staff is working with yours to distribute it widely to Members of Congress and their staffs, state agriculture commissioners, state foresters, Governors' offices, and other state and local officials in areas in which we sponsored projects.** Some general report highlights:

* USDA AmeriCorps Members in environmental projects performed flood recovery work on 75,300 acres, constructed or maintained 715 miles of trail, improved 6,176 acres of wildlife habitat, provided 885 landowners with water quality assistance, built or repaired 76 campground sites, planted 110,400 trees, made 42 recreation sites accessible for the disabled, restored 760 acres of fisheries habitat, and protected 67,483 acres of coastal land.

* USDA AmeriCorps Members in nutrition and anti-hunger projects cooked and served 40,155 meals at soup kitchens, implemented 51 new sites for the Summer Food Service Program that fed 40,912 children, provided 391,542 people with donated food, gave food safety and nutrition presentations to 25,257 students and senior citizens, helped 152 community gardens, and aided gleaning efforts.

* USDA AmeriCorps Members serving in rural development projects helped 390 low-income families secure new homes, 3,484 families obtain running water or modern bathrooms for the first time, 867 families repair health and safety hazards in their homes, and over 100 counties improve their emergency preparedness and response.

* The 1,200 USDA AmeriCorps Members recruited 14,176 non-compensated volunteers to serve in community service projects. Thus, each AmeriCorps Member, on average, recruited more than 11 non-compensated volunteers.

* In total, the AmeriCorps Members directly provided services to over 828,000 citizens and performed environmental work on over 234,000 acres of land.



UNITED
STATES
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OF AGRICULTURE

Copy

also sent to
Wm Scott Hesse (Dole)
February 11, 1996

Mr. Kevin Coit
Office of the Honorable Don Nickles
3310 Mid-Continent Tower
Tulsa, OK 74103

Dear Mr. Coit:

Thank you for taking time to meet with me on my recent trip to Oklahoma. I thought you might be interested to see a copy of the first-ever annual report of the USDA AmeriCorps program. Some general report highlights:

* USDA AmeriCorps Members in environmental projects performed flood recovery work on 75,300 acres, constructed or maintained 715 miles of trail, improved 6,176 acres of wildlife habitat, provided 885 landowners with water quality assistance, built or repaired 76 campground sites, planted 110,400 trees, made 42 recreation sites accessible for the disabled, restored 760 acres of fisheries habitat, and protected 67,483 acres of coastal land.

* USDA AmeriCorps Members in nutrition and anti-hunger projects cooked and served 40,155 meals at soup kitchens, implemented 51 new sites for the Summer Food Service Program that fed 40,912 children, provided 391,542 people with donated food, gave food safety and nutrition presentations to 25,257 students and senior citizens, and helped 152 community gardens.

* USDA AmeriCorps Members serving in rural development projects helped 390 low-income families secure new homes, 3,484 families obtain running water or modern bathrooms for the first time, 867 families repair health and safety hazards in their homes, and over 100 counties improve their emergency preparedness and response.

* The 1,200 USDA AmeriCorps Members recruited 14,176 non-compensated volunteers to serve in community service projects. Thus, each AmeriCorps Member, on average, recruited more than 11 non-compensated volunteers. The AmeriCorps Members directly provided services to over 828,000 citizens and performed environmental work on over 234,000 acres of land.

If you have any additional questions about our program, please contact us at (202) 720-5746.



Sincerely,

Joel Berg
Director of National Service, USDA



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

February 16, 1996

Honorable Slade Gorton
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Slade:

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

In accordance with section 312 and in anticipation of continued funding for AmeriCorps, we are giving notice to the Congress of our intent to use \$9.4 million from various National Forest System (NFS) and related funds and State and Private Forestry (S&PF) funds to carry out authorized FS work projects through the AmeriCorps national service program in FY 1996.

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

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

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

Under current law, Federal agencies may receive limited grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which is funded by the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1995, although much of the CNCS appropriations is available not for FY 1995, but for the period September 1, 1995, through August 31, 1996. The final size of the appropriations for CNCS in the FY 1995 Appropriations Act was determined when the President signed the rescissions bill, Public Law Number 104-19. Thus, CNCS has determined that it does indeed have enough funding from the FY 1995 Appropriations Act to provide a grant to the Forest Service to match the FS's FY 1996 funding of AmeriCorps.

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

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

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

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

Similar letters are being sent to Congressmen Regula and Yates and Senator Byrd.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Glickman", written over the word "Sincerely,".

DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary

Enclosure

FY 1996 FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

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

Thousands \$

National Forest System and Related Funds:

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

Rural Development Team Program:

Economic Action (SPEP)	<u>500</u>
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Total, AmeriCorps Program	<u>\$ 9,394</u>
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Under the FY 1996 reprogramming for AmeriCorps, trail construction funds would still be used only to build trails; fish habitat management funds would only be used to manage fish habitat; recreation management funds only be used on recreation projects; watershed improvement funds would only be used on watershed work; etc. The only change would be that AmeriCorps members would perform the work rather than using other methods or allowing for a work backlog.

STRONG SUPPORT

e

Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)
Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
John Breaux (D-LA)
Dale Bumpers (D-AR)
William Cohen (R-ME)
Ken Conrad (D-ND)
Tom Daschle (D-SD)
Byron Dorgan (D-ND)
Russ Feingold (D-WI)
Dianne Feinstein (D-IL)
Tom Harkin (D-IL)
James Jeffords (R-VT)
Herbert Kohl (D-WI)
Pat Leahy (D-VT)
Carol Mosely-Braun (D-IL)
Patty Murray (D-WA)
Sam Nunn (D-GA)
Paul Sarbanes (D-MD)
Paul Simon (D-IL) * state staff
Olympia Snowe (R-ME)
Paul Wellstone (D-MN)

21 (including 3 R)

House

Doug Bereuter (R-MO)
James Clyburn (D-SC)
Kika de la Garza (D-TX) {ranking member on agriculture committee}
Norm Dix (D-WA)
Richard Durbin (D-IL) {ranking member on agriculture appropriations sub-committee}
Cleo Fields (D-LA)
Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
Frank Lucas (R-OK)
Martin Meehan (D-MA)
George Miller (D-CA) {Ranking member on Resources committee}
John Murtha (D-PA)
Bill Orton (D-UT)
Frank Pallone, JR. (D-NJ)
Bill Richardson (D-NM)
Harold Rogers (R-KY)
Bennie Thompson (D-MS)
Peter Torkildsen (D-MA) - R
Bruce Vento (D-MN)
Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)

18

(including 3 R)

No objections to the Federal agencies

* some state staff

Pete Doemici (R-NM)
Larry Craig (R-ID)
Slade Gorton (R-WA)
Mark Hatfield (R-OR)
Ernest Hollings (
James Inhofe (R-OK)
John McCain (R-AZ)
Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
Barbar Mikulski
Don Nickels (R-OK) * state staff
Bob Smith (R-NH)
Fred Thompson (R-TN)
Strom Thrumond (D-SC)

13

Jerry Lewis (R-CA) {Chair of Appropriations sub-committee over CNS}
Joe Skeen (R-NM) {Chair of House Agriculture appropriations sub-committee}

AMENDMENT NO. _____ EX. _____ CALENDAR NO. _____

PURPOSE:

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES - Cong. 104th Sess. 2nd
S.

(title)

- () Referred to the Committee on
and ordered to be printed
- () Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

INTENDED to be proposed by

Viz: Strike p. 692, line 21 through p. 696, line 2 and insert:

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

National and Community Service Programs

Operating Expenses

(Including Transfer of Funds)

For necessary expenses for the Corporation for National and Community Service (referred to in the matter under this heading as the "Corporation") in carrying out programs, activities, and initiatives under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (referred to in the matter under this heading as the "Act") (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.), \$410,000,000, of which \$265,000,000 shall be available for obligation from September 1, 1996, through September 30, 1997: Provided, That not more than \$25,000,000 shall be available for administrative expenses authorized under section 501(a) (4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12671(a) (4)): Provided further, That not more than \$2,500 shall be for official

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reception and representation expenses: Provided further, That not more than \$70,000,000, to remain available without fiscal year limitation, shall be transferred to the National Service Trust account for educational awards authorized under subtitle D of title I of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12601 et seq.): Provided further, That not more than \$217,500,000 of the amount provided under this heading shall be available for grants under the National Service Trust program authorized under subtitle C of title I of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.) (relating to activities including the Americorps program): Provided further, That not more than \$5,500,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be made available for the Points of Light Foundation for activities authorized under title III of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12661 et seq.): Provided further, That no funds shall be available for national service programs run by Federal agencies authorizes under section 121(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12581(b)): Provided further, That, to the maximum extent feasible, funds appropriated in the preceding proviso shall be provided in a manner that is consistent with the recommendations of peer review panels in order to ensure that priority is given to programs that demonstrate quality, innovation, replicability, and sustainability: Provided further, That not more than \$18,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be available for the Civilian Community Corps authorized under subtitle B of title I of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12611 et seq.): Provided further, That not more than \$44,000,000 shall be available for school-based and community-based service-learning programs authorized

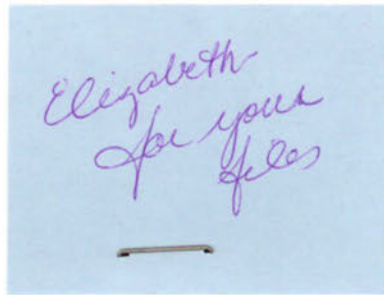
PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

under subtitle B of title I of the Act (41 U.S.C. 12521 et seq.):
Provided further, that not more than \$25,000,000 shall be
available for quality and innovation activities authorized under
subtitle II of title I of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12853 et seq.):
Provided further, That not more than \$5,000,000 shall be
available for audits and other evaluations authorized under
section 179 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12639), of which up to \$500,000
shall be available for a study by the National Academy of Public
Administration on the structure, organization, and management of
the Corporation and activities supported by the Corporation,
including an assessment of the quality, innovation,
replicability, and sustainability without Federal funds of such
activities, and the Federal and non-federal cost of supporting
participants in community service activities: Provided further,
That no funds from any other appropriation, or from funds
otherwise made available to the Corporation, shall be used to pay
for personnel compensation and benefits, travel, or any other
administrative expense for the Board of Directors, the Office of
the Chief Executive Officer, the Office of the Managing Director,
the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Office of National
and Community Service Programs, the Civilian Community Corps, or
any field office or staff of the Corporation working on the
National and Community Service or Civilian Community Corps
programs: Provided further, That to the maximum extent
practicable, the Corporation shall increase significantly the
level of matching funds and in-kind contributions provided by the
private sector, shall expand significantly the number of

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE



August 7, 1995

Ed Barron
Minority Staff Director
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
328-A Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: USDA/AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Project Directors' Meeting

Dear Mr. Barron:

As Donna Hines, USDA's AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Project Coordinator, explained to you on the phone this afternoon, we would like to extend a cordial invitation to you (and/or anyone else on your staff who may be interested) to meet briefly with some of the Directors from all five of USDA's AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger, Nutrition and Empowerment Projects on Wednesday, August 16. The all-day meeting will be held at USDA's Jamie L. Whitten Building (formerly the Administration Building), Room 500-A, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will focus on grant negotiations, budgetary issues, and project plans for our second year of meaningful, cost-efficient operation.

We are very proud of the work these projects have done so far this year, and have enclosed for your information a summary of their accomplishments, as of June 30, in the areas of nutrition education, food safety, community gardening, and selective food assistance program access.

Please feel free to join us for as much of the day as your schedule will allow. We realize that you are all extremely busy these days, and will appreciate any time, however limited, that you can spare to speak with these folks who are working so very hard to eliminate hunger in their communities. Also enclosed are a list of the Project Directors and a very general agenda for the 16th. If you will indeed be able to join us, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Donna Hines at (202)690-0693, or Elizabeth Jones (our Congressional Affairs Director) at (202)690-3507.

Sincerely,

Joel Berg
Director of National Service

Enclosures

ACTIVITY REPORT

TRANSMISSION OK

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State of Vermont

AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1801

Telephone: (802) 241-2450

Fax: (802) 241-2979

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE:

7/14/95

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet)

6

TO:

Don De Munbrun, et al

LOCATION:

USDA National Service

FAX PHONE # :

202/720-4614

VOICE PHONE # :

FROM:

Juan Pitt

VOICE PHONE # :

802/241-2462

COMMENTS:

Comments please, ASAP



State of Vermont

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Fax: (802) 241-2979

DRAFT

MEMO TO: Susan Donna, Boston Field Office

FROM: Avram Patt, Director

DATE: July 14, 1995

SUBJECT: Response to Site Visit Summary

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your draft site visit report, a courtesy which we appreciate and would have expected under any circumstances. Our corrections and comments are included in the handwritten notes on your draft, as well as in the separate comments and attachments.

I must note however, that on July 11, literally five minutes after I received a call from a staff member of the Boston Office asking for a fax copy of a document so he could "finish up" the site visit report, I was contacted by a reporter who had received a fax, from NBC News, of a copy of numbers contained in your draft report. On July 12, while this office was kept busy contacting Vermont press and media, our Governor's office and Congressional delegation to respond to these erroneous draft numbers, I received another call from you late in the afternoon of July 13, asking for our response to this draft site visit report that you were about to fax.

We regret that we were forced to respond publicly prior to this more formal response, but our response is essentially the same. Not knowing who is responsible for this information having been released at the draft stage, we also apologize to any staff members in the Boston Field Office, who may have made honest, albeit serious mistakes concerning our program, and were legitimately giving us the chance to respond and correct errors. The controversy was not of our making.

attachments

cc: USDA, National Service
Senator James Jeffords
Senator Patrick Leahy
Governor Howard Dean
Bari Gladstone, VAHC Project Director

DRAFT

VERMONT ANTI HUNGER, NUTRITION AND EMPOWERMENT CORPS

The Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) began operating the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps in December 1994. As one of several programs funded by a national direct federal agency grant to the USDA, it operates in five sites in Vermont to improve the state's anti-hunger/nutrition infrastructure. Its mission is to fight hunger state-wide through nutrition education/outreach and expansion of federal food program participation. OEO applied to the Department of Agriculture for AmeriCorps funding to initiate a state-wide, anti-hunger approach to the underutilization of federal food assistance programs by poor, rural residents.

Program Funding Stream, Per Budget, not actuals

	Cash	In-Kind	Total
Public Sources:			
Federal:			
CNS	\$800,754		\$800,754
Other	\$50,000		\$50,000
State/Local			
Private Sources	\$56,601		\$56,601
Total Program	\$907,355		\$907,355
Per Participant: (40)			
Program Funding			\$22,684
CNS Overhead			\$2,407
Education Award			\$4,725
Total Funding			\$29,816

NOTES:

The CNS grant reflects the full amount awarded at the program's outset; the grant amount may be adjusted to reflect participant attrition.

Per participant figures are based on full-time equivalents of participants. The figure does not represent actual expenditure.

Private in-kind funds estimated at \$11,587 are also available to the program.

The funding available to the program is 70% federal funds, 25% state in-kind contributions, and 5% private funds. Of its federal funds, 94% comes from its CNS grant; the remaining 6% comes from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.

See comments attached

See comments

22,684

See comments attached

40 participants were anticipated in this budget.

local and non-profit

Participant Characteristics

Participants' ages range from 19 to 67; 48% are between 21 and 25. The majority have had some college or are college graduates. The program expects that all participants will use the education award.

The program budgeted for ⁴⁰ full-time slots; however, ~~due to application process delays, only 40 slots were available when the program began in December 1994.~~ At the time of the GAO visit, there were 83 full-time participants. Two of the 40 recruited never began the program. Five of the original participants had left for health, personal and family reasons. Since that time, six additional participants have left for reasons including financial difficulties, extreme personal needs, inability to work in an ~~unstructured~~ ^{structured} environment, and the ~~others involved with eight people living and working together.~~

Program Structure

Participants complete a minimum of 100 hours of training in areas that include nutrition education, federal food policy and community service. Participants are divided into five crews of up to eight members that are stationed in one of five regional sites. Four of the five crews live together in group houses.

Participants report weekly work entries and hours to team leaders; weekly and cumulative service and training hours are recorded separately. Team leaders compile monthly team progress reports that summarize the individual entries.

Program Accomplishments

Site visits to a community food shelf and a garden tenant program revealed participants providing special foods and instruction for clients with special dietary needs, conducting outreach efforts to establish a summer food program for the elderly and children as an extension of the school year program, and teaching low-income and rural residents to plant/buy food to get more and better food for their resources.

One member attends basic education classes and is individually tutored by team members. She recently passed the preliminary GED test ~~after numerous failures, and after some extra preparation will take the GED.~~

see
comments
and
attachments

DRAFT

Comments re: introductory paragraph

Although Corps members did not begin working with the project until December 1994, it should be noted that OEO was awarded the grant in July, 1994 and received approval from the Joint Fiscal Committee of the Vermont Legislature to accept the funds at that time. There was a gearing up and implementation phase during the fall of 1994, as this was a new undertaking for OEO.

Comments and Corrections re: "Program Funding Stream" table

Handwritten corrections have been made on the table. We strongly disagree and are dismayed by the methodology used here.

1. It must be clearly stated that the figures listed are budget estimates and not actual expenditures. The figures are taken from the USDA grant to OEO developed a year ago.
2. The budget figures assumed participation by 40 members. As noted, there were 33 members when the GAO did its site visit. GAO staff were informed verbally and were given to-date monthly expenditure reports which showed that the project was running substantially under budget, due primarily to the lower participation, but also because prudent management is allowing us to operate slightly under budget in categories other than those directly tied to member living expenses. It is therefore an error of very large magnitude to divide the budget figure by the actual number of members. We have corrected the table to use the budgeted number of members, since the table shows budgeted, not actual expenditures. This results in a correction of the per participant "Program Funding" cost.
3. All items marked with an asterisk (*) on the table are under budget to date, and projected to be under budget at grant closeout. As previously noted, actual expenditure figures to date were provided to GAO staff during the site visit.
4. We have eliminated \$304,860 from the "in-kind" column. First, our grant budget indicates \$285,125. Whatever the amount, we strongly contest this even being considered as an expense in this per member calculation. This is a serious misunderstanding of the nature of in-kind match. When we first developed our budget a year ago, we were actually quite proud of how much "in-kind" we were projecting to leverage, because this is a benefit of the program, not an expenditure. These are donations of time, space, goods and services by local community organizations, state agencies, businesses, volunteers, schools and others. No additional funds are actually being spent here. Since the aforementioned parties all duly report their own expenditures to state and federal government or in their own records, to then count in-kind as a cash expenditure of our project means that the GAO is arguing that each of these dollars has been spent twice! Counting in-kind as a cost runs counter to all accounting practices we are aware of for

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government and non-profit programs.

5. Figures for "CNS Overhead" were not requested of not provided by this office during the site visit. We have no basis for this number, and can neither verify or contest it. While this figure may be of legitimate interest to GAO and others, it should not be included in our site visit report, since it was not obtained from our site. Before we could respond to this figure, we would need an explanation of the basis for this amount.

Comments re: Participant Characteristics

The program never budgeted for 50 slots. Our original application requested 50 slots, but our approved grant (July 1994) was for 40. Application process delays had nothing to do with the number being 40. we have corrected this accordingly. Additionally, the reason some members left was because the program was very structured, not unstructured as the draft states. The structured nature of the program includes the group living arrangement, so we suggest the change noted on your draft.

Comments re: Program Accomplishments

The information here is correct, however the emphasis seems completely out of balance to us. In one sentence, there is an attempt to summarize all activities of the Corps members. This is followed by a two-sentence, very detailed description of one member's personal accomplishment. OEO provided GAO with excerpts from our most recent quarterly report to USDA, which listed at least one hundred projects which members were either actively engages in, had completed, or were in implementing. We do not expect as much detail in a site visit report; nevertheless, the first paragraph thin. In contrast, we strongly feel that the level of detail concerning one member's literacy development is inappropriate in his particular context. We are of course proud of this person's important achievement. The "numerous failures" noted in the report would have occurred prior to this project and are clearly not relevant information here.

DRAFT



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

August 21, 1995

Honorable Patty Murray
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4704

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your leadership fighting to preserve the AmeriCorps/USDA Forest Service projects. Enclosed is a photo of our team serving in the Olympic National Forest. These Members are an integral part of the inaugural class of AmeriCorps/USDA.

Your continuing support of AmeriCorps/USDA is deeply appreciated. The women and men who comprise the project teams are truly dedicated to community service and to bettering the communities in which they live.

I hope that you and your staff will be able to visit one of the AmeriCorps/USDA sites during our second year. Please call me at 720-6350 or Elizabeth Jones at 690-3507 if you would like information about our sites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Berg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joel" and last name "Berg" clearly distinguishable.

Joel Berg
Director of National Service

CC: Marla Marvin, Mike Egan



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: David Wilby

FROM: Joel Berg

8 PAGES, including this cover

The attached revised Forest Service AmeriCorps reprogramming letter was signed by the Secretary last week. We hand-delivered the letter to the appropriate appropriations sub-committee offices. Copies went to Senator Gorton, Senator Byrd, Congressman Regula, and Congressman Yates.

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 (202) 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Carolyn Bourdeaux

FROM: Joel Berg

8 PAGES, including this cover

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



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Lisy Brown

FROM: Joel Berg

8 PAGES, including this cover

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



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Colin McGinnis

FROM: Joel Berg

8 PAGES, including this cover

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



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Emily Wertz

FROM: Joel Berg

8 PAGES, including this cover

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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 (202) 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

TO: Matt Sikes

FROM: Joel Berg

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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 (202) 720-5746.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Amy Rainone

(pah)

From: Joel Berg

8 PAGES, including this cover

The attached Forest Service AmeriCorps reprogramming letter was signed by the Secretary last night. I hand-delivered the letter to the appropriate appropriations sub-committee offices this morning. Copies went to Senator Gorton, Senator Byrd, Congressman Regula, and Congressman Yates.

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

A small, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

To: Mike Eagen, Marla Marvin

From: Joel Berg

8 PAGES, including this cover

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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.



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

May 30 1996

Honorable Slade Gorton
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6033

Dear Slade:

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

In accordance with section 312, we are proposing to reprogram \$5.24 million from various National Forest System (NFS), State and Private Forestry (S&PF), and other funds to carry out authorized FS work projects through the AmeriCorps national service program in FY 1996.

The FS operated a Public Lands Corps in FY 1995 through which 297 AmeriCorps members on national forest land in 8 States performed rehabilitation and watershed protection work, reforested fire-damaged lands, constructed and maintained trails for hiking and horseback riding, planted cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations, maintained and rehabilitated campgrounds, made campgrounds accessible for people with disabilities, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.

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

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

The FS is proposing to carry out a program very similar to the 1995 program, but at a reduced level. The program level is based upon field units' assessments of their ability to utilize AmeriCorps members during the remaining field season. The FS is using AmeriCorps as a delivery mechanism to perform work not performed by FS employees. The FS redirects work to the AmeriCorps program that would have to be accomplished by other, less cost efficient means, such as through private contractors.

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

I am also enclosing responses to your questions regarding our previous letter 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 Committees on Appropriations with respect to reprogramming procedures.

Similar letters are being sent to Senator Byrd and to Congressmen Regula and Yates.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary

Enclosures

FY 1996 FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

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

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

1996 AmeriCorp Program

Question: What work will be done by AmeriCorps?

Answer: The service provided by Americorps in FY 1996 is likely to be similar to that provide in FY 1995.

Members funded through the National Forest System performed the following service and accomplishments:

- o Constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trail.
- o 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.
- o Improved 668 acres of timber stand.
- o Built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites.
- o Reforested 638 acres of land.
- o Prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities.
- o Improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat.
- o Constructed 86 miles of new fence.
- o Maintained 18 miles of vehicle trails to keep them free of obstructive growth and slides.
- o Improved watershed damaged by fire by cutting and planting 92,500 willows in riparian areas.
- o Built 11 flood fences to prevent future flooding.
- o Improved Forest Service road and safety conditions--by "day lighting" 50 curves.
- o Released 775,000 salmon fry in a fish stocking operation.
- o Constructed a major visitor information center.
- o Provided conservation education to 88,373 students, grades K-12.

Members funded through State and Private Forestry performed the following service and accomplishments:

Arkansas - Members worked to promote alternative energy sources which are environmentally safe, to select appropriate sites for installation of dry fire hydrants, to facilitate implementation and coordination of demonstration projects for five poultry litter spreaders. They also helped to promote alternative wood products and value-added manufacturing technologies, resulting in local people obtaining job training and higher paying employment while maintaining the quality of the rural environment. Tons of industrial wood waste is now being processed into energy in the form of wood pellets. The Members also helped the Community of Holly Grove facilitate the FEMA buy out of homes in the 100-year flood plain.

Georgia - A member created Recreation Opportunity Guides for the Forest and assisted in developing a series of videos entitled "America's Great Outdoors," working with the Environmental Education Coordinator to present environmental education programs and fire prevention programs; other members worked with the Wilderness Ranger on the Brasstown Ranger District doing trail maintenance and doing presentations to local groups on wilderness management. The Recreation Opportunity Guides that was produced will also be of value to thousands of Forest visitors expected to visit the Forest during the 1996 Olympics.

Kentucky - A Member worked with the McCreary County Fiscal Court, primarily with the County Road Supervisory, to take help create a (911) emergency response system and to start a road inventory and management system for the county.

Louisiana - One Member assisted grant development for a successful application to use timber bridge technology and materials for recreation tourism project in Lake Providence, LA. He continues to assist Humphreys County, MS in their timber bridge construction efforts. Two members assisted in the first stage of the Shiitake Mushroom forestry-related project.

Mississippi - One Member helped develop a recycling program in Leflore County. One Member organized construction of an outdoor classroom and implemented a plan to improve science test scores by 25 percent. A Member worked to start a community recreation and education program.

North Carolina - One Member developed a 5-year Master Plan for the development of a Parks and Recreation Department on the Cherokee Reservation. In addition, he established a Mountain Bike Trail on the Qualla Boundary for public use and special biking events. Another Member assisted in the identification and renovation of parks and other recreation facilities which did not comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements.

South Carolina - Two Members worked on a project to improve rural fire protection, lower fire insurance rates, reduce losses from fire, and stimulate rural development. A member worked to create a nature trail at an elementary school. One Member provided technical assistance in solid waste management and recycling to communities in Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins, and Union Counties.

Tennessee - One Member assisted the Shady Valley Ruritan Club (non-profit) in organizing a native cranberry restoration Action plan. The purpose of the cranberry restoration project is to stimulate economic development through tourism and educate the public about the uniqueness of the native cranberry and the Shady Valley community. One Member sponsored household hazardous waste collections held in 6 counties in July with participation increasing by 23%.

Virginia - A Member researched and wrote a Tree Identification Teachers manual and completed tree identification plaques for the Marion Riverwalk. Another Member completed timber bridge design for 2 species of lumber, 3 lumber grades for each species, and 6 different bridge spans for each species and lumber grade. He also developed and received funding for designing and constructing 2 nail-laminated pedestrian timber bridges in the towns of Teasel and Marion. He also contacted over 100 volunteers and municipal fire departments pertaining to interest in installing dry fire hydrants.

Minnesota - Members completed major analysis of the current situation in the development of hybrid poplar as an alternative crop. Members also completed analysis and documentation of a survey of primary and secondary forest products manufacturers to determine barriers they face in engaging in more value-added production.

West Virginia - AmeriCorps Members have helped implement the Hayfield-McCoy Trail System by identifying trail heads, as well as conducting inventories of service providers such as gas stations, motels, and restaurants. AmeriCorps Members also completed field work and analysis of current amounts of residues left in the forests after logging has been completed. This survey, covering the central counties of West Virginia has been used as a template for other areas of West Virginia and surrounding states. In West Virginia, another project was the Braxton County project; development of a trail system for environmental education. The project included clearing and constructing interpretive nature trails, building a large wooden foot bridge over a river, hanging bird and bat boxes, and identifying and labeling plants and trees along the way.

Colorado - Members completed draft of the San Juan Skyway Corridor Management Plan, completed conceptual master plan for a Petting Zoo, completed conceptual plan for Mangos Watchable Wildlife Wetland Park, developed GIS base map of political boundaries and wildlife corridors on the San Juan Skyway, initiated the Ponderosa Pine Partnership, which allowed a timber contract to be bought and delivered to Montezuma County (first time in history this has occurred), and completed the Mangos Riverwalk, which received Governor Roamer's Smart Growth and Development Award for 1995.

Utah - Members completed a site inventory of 23 sites for inclusion in the Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway, completed a signing project for Scenic Byways Project in San Juan County, completed Urban Forestry project in Moab and in Huntington, and completed work with the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum on sorting and cataloging artifacts collected in 1987.

New Mexico - A Member worked with the non-profit Castile Arts and Crafts Guild to find work for people who were under-employed because of the closure of a lumber mill. AmeriCorps provided technical assistance to develop a plan for the second year of operation of the Sangre de Cristo Wood Workers. Working the Carson National Forest engineer, AmeriCorps helped the people of the village of Velocities figure out how to improve their contaminated and insufficient water supply. AmeriCorps worked with the non-profit organization Gannets Del Vale and La Madeira Cooperative to develop a long range plan for economic development in the village of Velocities, using forest products and locally produced arts and crafts. In addition, because of the efforts of AmeriCorps, the 2,000 residents of the village of El Rico is one year closer to having safe drinking water. In Coyote, AmeriCorps is assisting the Volunteer Fire Department in locating a building the house the fire engine and to serve as a fire house. AmeriCorps also assisted in the development of a group which will provide a long range plan for tree planting in Taos County.

Arizona - Members assisted distressed Arizona communities to retain or expand businesses. AmeriCorps members implemented the Econ DB, an economic data base profile in 8 communities. Area Developers as well as the Arizona Department of Commerce's National Marketing Team will use the Econ DB. Public and private enterprises alike consider the Econ DB beneficial in attracting, developing and retaining businesses. Members also assisted multi-community action teams to have the Four Corners Heritage Council adopt the "Trail of Many Tracks" into the Four Corners Heritage Trail System. The Trail of Many Tracks is a heritage auto-touring route covering approximately 260 miles located in north central Arizona. The touring route passes through all communities adjacent to the Apache Sitgraves National Forest.

Oregon - The University of Oregon's Learn and Serve AmeriCorps Members are working and living in fourteen rural communities, five of whose members are USDA Forest Service supported. These participants are providing assistance in the areas of 1) Economic Development; 2) Environmental Preservation, Restoration, and Education; 3) Community Empowerment and Development.

Question: Does the AmeriCorps staff have the required professional experience to do the work?

Answer: All AmeriCorps members receive extensive technical training before they start their service and ongoing professional supervision during their service.

Question: Who has done this type of work in the past? If contracts were used, why not continue to use competitive bids and get professional quality work with appropriate oversight?

By law AmeriCorps Members can not displace existing employees or duplicate existing work. AmeriCorps provides a way to accomplish needed work and also meet a social objective of helping young people obtain a higher education and meaningful work experience.

The benefits of using AmeriCorps members to perform work are not limited to just the work (hours or volume) performed by the members themselves. Because of the nature of the AmeriCorps program and its legislation, projects utilizing AmeriCorps members can form partnerships with other government and non-government entities, wherein these entities can provide money, tools, supplies, volunteers and other support that could not and is not provided when other means such as private contractors are used to perform the work.

Question: Are the AmeriCorps centers appropriately located so the priority projects are tackled for each of the main program areas listed?

Answer: All Forest Service projects, developed at the ground level, are selected after an intense internal competition and then a highly competitive external competition run by the Corporation for National Service. The projects are designed to contribute to the planned program accomplishments of each unit.