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ENVIROCORPS

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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To <u>Joel Berg</u> Dept./Agency <u>USDA</u> Fax # <u>202/720-4614</u>	From <u>Eann Rains</u> Phone # <u>503/231-6186</u> Fax # <u>503/231-2271</u>
NSN 7540-01-317-7368	5099-101
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	

TO: Joel Berg, Larry Holmes, Dee DiFore, Gayle Norman
 FR: Eann Rains, EnviroCorps Program Coordinator *ER*
 RE: Reconfiguration of member slots for program year 1996-97
 DT: September 30, 1996

For the upcoming program year, EnviroCorps would like to make a change in the distribution of full-time and part-time member slots. I believe the program proposal that was sent in for 1996-97 states that we would have 10 full-time slots and six part-time slots under OR X41B, and two full-time team leader slots under OR Y41A. In looking at the type of work we want to do in the program this year, we would like to change it to eight full-time and 10 part-time slots under OR X41B, and leave it at two full-time slots under OR Y41A. This will have no effect on the dollars paid out in education awards and living stipends. It will save some money on health insurance coverage.

I am asking for your approval of this change before I bring on new members. I would like to know that there is an adequate number of education award slots set aside for my program before we get started. (There have been some unresolved issues around the number of education awards we were slated for during the 1995-96 program year, which has caused a worrisome delay in the issuance of education awards to four of our members who completed their service during the past year. I want to prevent similar problems for the new people.)

Please call or send me approval of this plan as soon as you can. If there are any questions or if I need to follow a different procedure for gaining approval of this plan, please let me know.

I may be reached at 503/231-6186 (phone), 503/231-2271 (fax), or at the address below.

Thank you very much for your attention.

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
 2115 SE Morrison Street # 201
 Portland, OR 97214
 503/725-5588 FAX 503/231-2271

ENVIROCORPS

TO: Dee DiFore
FR: Eann Rains *EAR*
RE: Letters I have sent to Congressional offices
DT: October 18, 1996

I am sending out EnviroCorps program reports to Congressional staff, along with cover letters that refer (vaguely) to our funding situation. I am enclosing a copy of the typical letter, a copy of the program report, and a list of the people the letters and reports are going to. I have not had any conversations with Congressional staff. A former EnviroCorps member called a bunch of offices today, and the staff person at Sen. Wyden's office sounded interested. I think the chair of the East Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District is making calls, too.

I understand that Joel Berg wants to know the names of Congressional staff who have been contacted. Please forward this information on to him.

Thanks.

Congressional Delegation 1996

President Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
Ph: (202) 456-1414
E-mail: President@WhiteHouse.gov

House Speaker Newt Gingrich
Room H-233, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
Ph: (202) 225-0600
E-mail: Georgia6@hr.house.gov

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Ph: (202) 224-3753

(General staff)

One World Trade Center
121 SW Salmon St. Suite 1420
Portland, OR 97204
Ph: (503) 326-3386

*AmeriCorps
Ann Warner*

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore
259 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Ph: (202) 224-5244

*Attn: Joshua Sheinkman
environment*

500 NE Multnomah, Suite 320
Portland, OR 97232
Ph: (503) 326-7525

*Attn: Jane Lesser
(AmeriCorps member)*

Rep. Elizabeth Furse, D-Ore, 1st District
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Ph: (202) 225-0855
E-mail: FurseOr1@hr.house.gov

*Ann Richardson
Portland ofc*

860 Montgomery Park
2701 NW Vaughn
Portland, OR 97201
Ph: (503) 326-2901

*Elise Jones
DC office
(Environmental issues)*

Rep. Peter DeFazio - D-Ore, 4th District
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Ph: (202) 225-6416
E-mail: PDeFazio@hr.house.gov

151 W. 7th
Eugene, OR 97401
Ph: (541) 465-6732

Rep. Wes Cooley - R-Ore, 2nd District:
1609 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Ph: (202) 225-6730

259 Barnett Rd Suite E
Medford, OR 97501
Ph: (541) 776-4646

Rep. Jim Bunn - R-Ore, 5th District:
1517 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Ph: (202) 225-5711
E-mail: AskBunn@hr.house.gov

738 Hawthorne Ave NE
Salem, OR 97301
Ph: (503) 588-9100

Rep. Earl Blumenauer - D-Ore,
3rd District:
1111 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Ph: (202) 225-4811

500 NE Multnomah, Suite 205
Portland, OR 97232
Ph: (503) 231-2300

*Christine Egan
Staff who deals
w/ AmeriCorps*

ENVIROCORPS

October 18, 1996

Christine Egan
3rd District Congressional Office
500 NE Multnomah, Suite 205
Portland, OR 97232

Rep Earl Blumenauer

Dear Ms. Egan:

EnviroCorps is a USDA AmeriCorps program that does environmental education and environmental restoration/enhancement work around the Portland area. We recently completed our second program year. We are hoping to begin a third year soon, if the USDA receives approval to continue using its funds for AmeriCorps work.

I am enclosing a report on EnviroCorps's activities for the 1995-96 program year. Please review it and pass it on to Congressman Blumenauer. I think it shows that a group of 18 AmeriCorps members can have a significant impact, accomplishing tasks that government and community organizations do not always have the resources to take on. EnviroCorps has worked with numerous neighborhood associations, public schools, watershed groups, local soil and water conservation districts, Metro Parks and Greenspaces, Portland Parks and Recreation, the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Portland State University, and other folks to teach adults and children the practical benefits of taking care of the natural environment of the Portland area. As a result, we have a stronger community and a more pleasant and healthful place in which to live.

If you or Congressman Blumenauer would like to visit some EnviroCorps project sites, or if either of you would like to hear more about the program and what we hope to accomplish in the next year, feel free to call me at 503/231-6186 or 503/231-2270. If it would be useful, I can also give you some information on the issues surrounding the future of USDA AmeriCorps programs.

Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely,



Eann Rains
Program Coordinator

Report on the Activities of EnviroCorps, 1995-96

EnviroCorps is a USDA AmeriCorps program that has just finished its second year of operation. The focus of the program is to provide on-the-ground community service and hands-on environmental education in Portland and surrounding areas. We partner with a host of local community groups in an effort to restore the natural environment of the Columbia Slough, streams, ponds, wetlands, public parks, greenspaces, school grounds, and even vacant lots located in the middle of neighborhoods. Our work is community driven, responding to the needs of adults and youth and involving them in the planning and implementation of a variety of projects to make Portland a more enjoyable place in which to live.

The purpose of this report is to give you an idea of the scope of services EnviroCorps has provided in the past year. We believe it shows that when people join together, they can have a powerful effect on their communities.

Statistics Related to the EnviroCorps Community Service Objectives, 1995-96

- Created and implemented ten service learning projects for youth participation.
- Led 1159 students on service learning projects, with 90% gaining knowledge.
- Gave presentations on conservation/environmental education to 361 students, with 90% gaining knowledge.
- Recruited 1795 volunteers to do environmental activities, with 100% participation.
- Led or worked alongside 1931 volunteers, for 9371 hours of community service.
- Filled 2000 sandbags during the February floods to protect public buildings.
- Completed seven conservation plans and implemented all of them.
- Removed non-native, invasive plants from 15 acres of land to improve the survival rate of native plants.
- Installed 20 physical measures to conserve soil or protect water quality, with 95% landowner satisfaction.
- Installed physical measures on 70 acres to improve wildlife habitat, meeting professional standards for installation.
- Restored/improved 23 acres of ponds and wetlands, with 90% of the area meeting professional standards for the work done.
- Improved one mile of the Columbia Slough.
- Improved two miles of riparian habitat, with a 90% decrease in erosion.
- Maintained/rehabilitated one fourth of a mile of streambank to reduce erosion, with an 80% reduction in the rate of soil erosion.
- Rehabilitated seven miles of nature/hiking trails, meeting professional standards.
- Propagated or salvaged 24,000 plants, with an 80% survival rate.
- Planted 3367 trees and shrubs, meeting professional standards for installation.
- Maintained (mulched, weeded, watered) 50 acres of plantings, for a survival rate of 85% after six months.
- Canvassed 10,326 homes in Portland to encourage homeowners to disconnect their downspouts (within City guidelines) to reduce sewage overflow and water pollution.
- Disconnected downspouts from 378 homes for the Portland Combined Sewer Overflow Program, passing inspection at a rate of over 95%.

Examples of Community Service Work

EnviroCorps has worked with Portland Public Schools, Washington County Educational Service District, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, Portland Parks and Recreation, the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services Combined Sewer Overflow Program, local soil and water conservation districts, numerous "friends" groups (such as Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes, and FANS of Fanno Creek), neighborhood associations, and boys and girls clubs, among others.

An example of our work is the removal of invasive non-native plants that choke out desirable native vegetation. Compared to non-natives, native plants provide a more consistent source of food for wildlife, put down roots that do a better job of controlling soil erosion, and, because they are more resistant to pests, disease, and drought, require less maintenance. Examples of harmful non-native plants are Himalayan blackberries (very prevalent in this area), English ivy, purple loosestrife, teasel, and nightshade. The work EnviroCorps does involves a) removing non-natives; b) preparing sites for upcoming plantings of native vegetation; c) planting natives appropriate to the soil, water, and light conditions; and c) saving native vegetation from the competition of returning invasives. The sites we renovated and/or maintained include Smith and Bybee Lakes, Whitaker Ponds, Bybee Howell, Delta Park, Blue Lake Park, Fairview Creek, and a strip of land behind a business on Columbia Blvd. (all impacting the Columbia Slough), along with Oxbow Park, the Springwater Corridor Trail, and an area along the Tualatin River in West Linn. We also saved 296 mature trees at Lewis and Clark College by chopping English ivy vines away from their trunks.

This summer, EnviroCorps members took on a new type of project. During the floods last February, a hill on the edge of the Lewis and Clark College campus experienced a landslide. The hill has a steep slope about as long as a football field. Trees and English ivy were washed out as a large volume of water cascaded down the hill toward a house. With technical assistance and a design developed by a private environmental consulting firm, the EnviroCorps team installed cross-slope drains to divert seeping underground water and rainwater, laid jute netting to stabilize the slope, and planted 150 native trees and shrubs whose root systems will hold the soil better than the English ivy did. The members had never worked on a landslide before. They found it to be a fun and challenging learning experience.

Examples of Community Building

Over the course of the year, EnviroCorps has had ample opportunity to work with adults and youth in a variety of settings. Our responsibilities have included teaching student and adult citizens about the water pollution caused by Portland's overburdened sewer system, asking residents what kinds of improvements they would like to see in their neighborhoods, leading groups in planting native trees and shrubs, and working alongside volunteers on trail improvement and trash cleanup projects. Some volunteers have gone on to train others in the application of effective land stewardship practices. EnviroCorps continues to work with new people who, in turn, train others. The entire community benefits from these efforts.

One EnviroCorps team spent nine months at Portland's new Environmental Middle School, working with 125 students to develop projects of an educational and community service nature. Toward the end of the academic year, as the planned projects were winding down, the

students continued to think up new projects they wanted to try. Over the summer, six of the students worked with us in the LINKS project, assisting us in providing environmental service learning to disadvantaged elementary school students at a day camp. Others got their families involved in maintaining the garden that the EMS students and EnviroCorps members had designed and installed on the EMS schoolground. Two boys who had visited a botanical garden in Portland with their class during the school year decided on their own to return to the garden several times during the summer to help out. EnviroCorps helped foster the spirit of volunteerism in many EMS students: a spirit that will extend beyond EnviroCorps's projects and will likely last long into the future.

A Few Success Stories

This summer, in the LINKS project, EnviroCorps members spent two days a week providing environmental education and service learning opportunities to 20 children (in grades K-4) from one of Portland's most disadvantaged neighborhoods. One of the LINKS children was Max, a five year old with quick wits and boundless energy who, during a trip to the zoo, required the constant attention of two adults just to keep him from wandering into trouble. We learned little about Max's home life other than that his mother was in and out of jail on drug-related charges during the six weeks of the LINKS program. Most of the other LINKS kids had home lives no better than Max's. When the program ended, we were glad to see that Max was still with us and smiling. We were proud to know that, at the very least, we helped provide a caring and consistent environment for children like Max to learn and grow over the summer, and, at best, we helped create an experience that will shape these young lives long into the future.

The City of Portland's Combined Sewer Overflow Downspout Disconnection Program, designed to remove sewer water from our river system, has disconnected downspouts from over 1000 homes. There has been a high level of community volunteer involvement in the two years since the program's inception. EnviroCorps has worked closely with the CSO program, educating school and youth groups, canvassing neighborhoods to inform homeowners about the issues, and training and assisting volunteers on disconnection days. All told, because of the work of city staff, volunteers, and EnviroCorps, literally millions of gallons per year of stormwater/household sewage mix have been removed from the Columbia Slough and the Columbia River. The Downspout Disconnection Program continues to expand, and EnviroCorps plans to carry on its role in improving out water quality.

For our summer youth program this year, we partnered with Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (an alternative school in Northeast Portland) and The Private Industry Council (the local Job Training Partnership Act employment training program). The program design was for youth to spend three weeks in the classroom at POIC and three weeks doing community service field work with EnviroCorps. Most of the youth were exposed to the woods and outdoor work for the first time. One of the things that particularly impressed them was the fact that the EnviroCorps members worked so hard in the sweltering heat, even though the AmeriCorps stipend comes out to a rate that is lower than the pay the youth received.

Early in the program year, one team helped design and organize the building of a garden at the Environmental Middle School. After the program year ended, vandals broke the windows in the shed, knocked over interpretive signs, chopped down two trees, and destroyed several flowering plants. The staff of the school and parents of students quickly worked to restore the

garden as much as possible. We are glad to see a project we started be sustained by the community for whom it was aimed.

An example of the continued community involvement of EnviroCorps members is Ann Ledo. Since ending her year of service with EnviroCorps, Ann has found three part-time jobs, all related to community service and all inspired by her role with EnviroCorps. She is teaching art and mosaic tiling to middle school students and working with disabled youth through the school district. Ann is beginning her senior year as an education major at the University of Portland. She is keeping the EnviroCorps spirit with her as she moves on in the world.

National AmeriCorps Identity Activities

EnviroCorps's partnership with the Environmental Middle School garnered national recognition and gave us the third place award at the National Service and Education Partnerships for Success Symposium.

EnviroCorps took the lead on the National Day of Service in the Portland area, organizing a massive tree planting that involved over 150 community members and 100 AmeriCorps volunteers at the Fairview Creek Headwaters in Gresham, OR, on April 27, 1996.

The LINKS project this summer drew together members of three AmeriCorps programs: EnviroCorps, Friend of Children, and the Foster Grandparents. They provided a six-week educational day camp in southeast Portland for at risk five through eleven year olds. The partnerships proved an unqualified success with each of the AmeriCorps programs bringing the strength of its experience to the project.

In July, EnviroCorps participated in a day of community service with Northwest Service Academy, which is another AmeriCorps program. Together, we built a playground structure for an elementary school in Milwaukie. It was a fun day that demonstrated the work of AmeriCorps to many people.

AmeriCorps Member Development

The EnviroCorps members had a positive experience and came away with a greater sense of responsibility as a citizen and commitment to community involvement. Every member has a new sense of what volunteerism means and how to involve others or inspire them to community service. Several members had an amazing increase in their own work ethic and how to be a model citizen. And many members are already enrolled in community college, universities, graduate school, or the Army Reserve.

Training

The program coordinator and team leaders have attended AmeriCorps- and USDA-sponsored training regarding facilitative leadership, conflict resolution, and workforce diversity.

Specific training we would like to offer EnviroCorps members next year includes:

First aid/CPR	Disaster relief
Safety on the job	Identification of poisonous plants
Team building activities	Leadership training for all members
Handling hazardous materials	Transitioning from AmeriCorps to a career
Resume/cover letter writing	Networking, job placement

Sponsorship and Funding

The major sponsors of EnviroCorps are the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture, Metro Regional Government, Portland State University, and the East Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Funding for EnviroCorps comes from federal and local sources. These include:

Corporation for National and Community Service:	education awards (post-service)
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:	member stipends
Metro Regional Government:	program coordinator position
Local partnership agreements:	operating exp. (vans, tools, etc.)

Local partners contribute to EnviroCorps by reimbursing program costs in exchange for services we provide. Partners in the 1995-96 program year included the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Halton Tractor Co., Washington County Education Service District, City of West Linn Parks and Recreation Department, the engineering firm Dames and Moore, West Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District, and FANS of Fanno Creek.

As of this writing (October 16, 1996), the USDA has not received Congressional approval to continue its sponsorship of AmeriCorps programs for a new program cycle. Once this issue is resolved, EnviroCorps will know the status of its USDA NRCS funding and will either begin the 1996-97 program year or will meet with its sponsors and partners to explore contingency plans for funding the program.

In anticipation of a new program year to begin this fall, we have tentatively hired two new team leaders. The East Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District has agreed to make them temporary District employees for the time being. (If the USDA funding issue comes to a positive resolution, they will enroll as AmeriCorps members and go off the District payroll.)

Conclusion

EnviroCorps is a dynamic organization that provides opportunities for individuals to earn financial aid for college or vocational school while they perform service to communities in the Portland area. Through its focus on environmental education and environmental restoration, EnviroCorps gives students and community members avenues for learning together and working together to reduce pollution, enhance recreational opportunities, and restore the natural beauty and habitat of their neighborhoods and public lands. The quantitative and qualitative impacts of the program will benefit the community for years to come.

TO: Larry Holmes and Joel Berg
 FR: Eann Rains, EnviroCorps *ER*
 RE: Incomplete projects
 DT: December 20, 1996

Tax 202/1240-0639
 Joel Berg
 fax 202/720-4614

Thanks for your work in trying to negotiate a resolution to the USDA AmeriCorps funding problem. We understand that you may have to make some concessions. I would like to tell you about some programs that EnviroCorps has that are not yet completed. We have partners who are depending on us. Without us, they won't be able to complete their work; some of them may lose funding if they fall short of their program goals and objectives. Here are some examples. Larry also has a list that I faxed him on Dec.10.

1. City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) program:

EnviroCorps is needed to assist the City in coming into compliance with the Clean Water Act. EnviroCorps teams canvass neighborhoods for BES to inform homeowners about raw sewage that goes into the rivers (due to an antiquated sewer system design and capacity) and ask them to give permission for their downspouts to be disconnected. EnviroCorps performs disconnections and trains and directs groups of community volunteers (adults and youth) in doing disconnections for homeowners who need help. We have also done classroom and outdoor education with schools located in affected neighborhoods as part of the science and math curricula. We are the only available resource that can work on its own during the week and come out on weekends to work with groups of volunteers.

BES has recently identified neighborhoods in which downspout disconnection will be mandatory. Facing new deadlines for disconnecting downspouts and constructing new sewage storage facilities, along with budget cuts, BES needs EnviroCorps more than ever.

2. Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces

There are numerous parks and greenspaces that need attention that Metro doesn't have the staff and funds to provide. Metro calls on EnviroCorps to repair flood damage to parks and trails; create bioswales; remove invasive non-native vegetation that is damaging parks and wetlands; and plant appropriate natives trees and shrubs to stabilize soil, control erosion, filter pollutants, and create wildlife habitat.

The work we do in the Columbia Slough watershed is especially important. This area has a long history of industrial pollution, along with serious economic problems, youth gang activity, and very few parks and recreational areas. EnviroCorps has been working with Metro, the Urban League of Portland, schools, the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, and groups of youth and adult volunteers to clean up a junkyard, renovate a house into an office and education center, remove non-natives and plant natives, and develop plans for a fishing dock. A lot has been accomplished, but there is much left to do.

3. Kraxberger Middle School in Gladstone, outside of Portland, is in an area that used to have a lot of wetlands. The school sits on property that has a failed sediment basin that the teachers and students want to convert into a natural wetland to protect the Clackamas River and to use as an outdoor lab. The school has received a grant to do this work and is counting on EnviroCorps to provide technical assistance on the design and planting plan, and to provide adult labor and instruction for the students in installing and

MONITORING THE WETLAND. WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE SCHOOL SINCE THEY GOT THE IDEA FOR THE PROJECT.

4. Humboldt Neighborhood Association is making plans to convert a vacant lot next to Humboldt Elementary into a naturescaped community garden space and outdoor lab/classroom area. The association wrote EnviroCorps into a grant for this project and is looking to us for assistance regarding grading the soil to prevent erosion, deciding on appropriate native plantings, constructing wheelchair-accessible raised beds, etc.
5. The City of Gresham has been working with EnviroCorps in enhancing a wetland area at the headwaters of Johnson Creek. The plan is for students from elementary through high school to install snags, plant natives, conduct photomonitoring, and perform a number of other service learning tasks. They need EnviroCorps teams to show them how to do these tasks and to provide muscle for the heavy work. They asked to work with us because of our experience in the field and in working with kids of all ages.
6. Portland Parks and Recreation wants us back to help them with some projects. Last year, EnviroCorps built a low concrete wall and planted a butterfly garden at Alberta Park, across from Vernon Elementary School. The plan was for us to build raised beds for the kids to use for various growing experiments. Completion of the project was delayed while waiting for the City to install an irrigation system. Parks wants the project finished.
7. Last year, EnviroCorps led over 1000 school kids in Washington County on field trips to wetlands, streams, etc., and worked with them on service learning projects such as building bird boxes. Washington County Educational Service District has asked us to do this again. With limited resources, educators depend on groups like us to fill in the gaps.
8. An Environmental Middle School was formed in Portland last year. EnviroCorps worked with teachers, students, and parents on classroom and outdoor projects. This year, they are constructing a bioswale on school grounds and are talking about helping an elementary school with planting native trees on some donated land next to that school. They were excited about working with us again this year, but we have had to wait due to our situation. Because of reductions in the school district budget and turnover of some teachers, EMS needs our help even more this year in the classroom and in the field.

EnviroCorps has an excellent reputation for professionalism, technical expertise, and responding quickly to community needs. Groups and schools have actively sought us out for assistance with projects. We continue to get calls from community groups who have heard about our work and who need help with drainage and erosion problems, designing naturescaping plans, or removing tough stands of blackberry bushes, or who want a group of AmeriCorps members to give their volunteers a hand and help them stay motivated on long project workdays. We realize that we can't say "Yes" to everybody who has a project. We'd like to at least be able to complete the projects that we or our partners have started.

I hope you will try to buy us some time to finish our projects and help these partners who are depending on us.

Thank you.

USDA AMERICORPS IN SOUTHWESTERN OREGON

Through USDA/NRCS 6 full-time college graduates have worked in communities.

Total NRCS funds for our 6 people: **\$85,742.75** to date.

Total local host organization support for members (including in-kind): **\$51,500**

Total hours worked by 6 AmeriCorps members: **10,872**

Estimated accomplishments FY 96:

6 AmeriCorps Rural Development members

Total non-AmeriCorps community volunteers: **1087 VOLUNTEERS**

Total hours worked by non-AmeriCorps volunteers: **10,125 HOURS**

Number of people directly affected or assisted: **3611 PEOPLE**

Number of plans or projects developed: **234 PROJECTS**

Value of grants awarded for community project work: **\$700,138 PROJECT FUNDS**

In-kind donations associated with project work: **\$1,115,994 DONATIONS**

Miles of stream treated: **76.1* MILES**

Number of trees or cuttings planted: **62,750 TREES**

Number of public facilities improved: **6 FACILITIES**

Number of culverts surveyed for fish passage: **350* CULVERTS**

Number of in-stream structures built or improved: **49* STREAM STRUCTURES**

Outdoor classroom facilities created or enhanced: **33* CLASSROOMS**

Debris removed from stream: **LOTS**

Storm drains stenciled to discourage pollution: **250 STORM DRAINS**

Miles of stream adopted by groups: **22* MILES**

Number signing up to implement fish-friendly practices: **54* LANDOWNERS**

*accomplishments result of two years of work involving extensive project development and planning on the part of community groups

ENVIROCORPS FAX

Number of pages (including cover): 2

To: Dee D. Fore
Fax: 202-720-4614

From: Eamun Rains - EnviroCorps Program Coord.
Phone: 503/231-6186
Fax: 503/231-2271

Date: 9-30-96

Subject: Memo regarding change in member "slots"

I have written a memo to request that my AmeriCorps program be permitted to reassign the full-time + part-time member slots. I'm not sure who this memo should go to, to be sure I get the proper approval + to be sure the Trust knows what's going on. The grants person needs to be involved, as do Joel Berg and/or Larry Holmes.

Would you please read this memo + advise ~~me~~ me who to send it to?

Thanks!

ENVIROCORPS FAX

Number of pages (including cover): 2

To: Dee D. Fore
Fax: 202/720-4614From: Eann Rains
Phone: 503/231-6186
Fax: 503/231-2271

Date: 9-13-96

Subject: Copy of memo we discussed.

Thanks for the information + for your
assistance in these matters.

Call if you have any questions.

ENVIROCORPS

TO: National Service Trust Office
 Gayle Norman, Coordinator, AmeriCorps USDA NRCS programs in Oregon
 Marlis Miller, Executive Director, Oregon Comm. for National and Community Service
 Sue Brandt, Personnel Management Specialist, Oregon NRCS
 Steve Fedje, NRCS, EnviroCorps Administrative Coordinator

FR: Eann Rains, Program Coordinator, EnviroCorps *ER*

RE: Corrections to AmeriCorps Member forms, delayed enrollment into the National Service Trust, clarification of full-time and part-time Member slots for 1995-96 program year

DT: September 12, 1996

In a telephone conversation I had today with Levon Buller at the National Service Trust Office, I learned that four Members who participated in the EnviroCorps program during Program Year 1996 were not enrolled in the National Service Trust during that period of service. They are:

Karen Brimacombe	Erik Steffens
Jonathan Mugglestone	Terri Tufts

I am sending photocopies of these people's National Service Enrollment Forms for PY96 in this mailing to the National Service Trust Office. I hope these copies will be sufficient to enroll them in the Trust so that they may receive their education awards. I assume my predecessor completed Enrollment Forms for all the other Members. (Otherwise, those names would have appeared on the computer as not enrolled in the Trust.)

In the same conversation, I also learned that the number of full-time and part-time members for the EnviroCorps program for PY96 is not recorded correctly on the National Service Trust computer. It is correct on the NRCS report I just got in the mail. The discrepancy needs to be resolved to ensure that the Members will receive the education awards that they have earned. We had two full-time Team Leaders under Op Site ID #Y41A, 10 full-time members under X41B, and seven part-time Members under X41B. Of the seven part-time members, one left the program early and was replaced; hence, we used six part-time slots. Only six part-time education awards should be given out.

The National Service Trust computer had one of the Team Leaders (Richard Melo) listed under X41B instead of Y41A, so I asked the staff person (Levon Buller) to switch him to the proper category. The National Trust records show that, after switching Melo to Y41A, EnviroCorps has two unused full-time education award slots that we don't need (Melo's, plus one that was never assigned) but is short four part-time slots. I am requesting that the two extra full-time slots be converted into four part-time slots so that all EnviroCorps Members who completed their service during 1995-96 will receive the appropriate education award. Mr. Buller told me he would be sending an Email to Hank Altman, to grants officer Monica Holman, and to the computer office regarding this change.

As a new AmeriCorps program coordinator who is new to these forms, I recorded the wrong Program/Project ID Number on Members' End of Term of Service Forms. The correct number for Members other than Team Leaders is 94ADFDC047X41B. For Team Leaders, it is 94ADFDC047Y41A. I have made corrections on photocopies of these forms for Team Leaders Richard Melo and Mike Grosso. These are included in this mailing for Marlis, Sue, and the National Trust Office.

Thanks for your understanding on all this stuff.

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
 2115 SE Morrison Street
 Portland, OR 97214
 503/725-5588 FAX 503/231-2271

Southwest Oregon RC&D

invites you to a no-host

AmeriCorps Appreciation Banquet

Honoring

Jim Collins	Chaline Owings
Dave Jacob	Brad Pearce
Pat McVean	J.R. Van Slyke

ON: Wednesday, August 28, 1996

AT: Wildlife Safari's White Rhino Restaurant

SAFARI TOUR: 4:00 pm - in vans with a guide
SOCIAL: 5:30 pm - no-host beer and wine available
DINNER: 6:30 pm - chicken or steak for \$10.65

*Please join us in a tribute to the
accomplishments of AmeriCorps members
working together with local communities. Help
us celebrate the second year of AmeriCorps in
southwest Oregon and show appreciation for the
community service of our members.*

**An R.S.V.P by August 21 is required in order to secure this great
facility and to arrange for the tour. Please call 541-476-5906!**



Southwest Oregon RC&D

576 NE "E" Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

Joel Berg

SOUTHWEST OREGON**RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT**

576 N.E. "E" Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526

Ph. 503-476-5906, FAX 503-955-9574

Please note address →

FAX COVER SHEET

NRCS

DATE: 5-18-95

TOTAL PAGES: 9

TO: Joel Berg, ^{attn: Charles Simms} USDA/AmeriCorps
Director

FAX NUMBER: 202-720-4614

FROM: Amy Wilson, Coordinator

RE: '96 Program objectives

Please call immediately if you do not receive all pages of this message.

REMARKS: Dear Joel.

We have studied your comments + suggestions, and working with the 8 host communities we have come up with the following objectives. Are we on the right track?!

Please let me know if there are still problems. Local people are ecstatic about what AmeriCorps members have achieved so far: Local support \$s account for nearly 90% of the project cost (excluding stipends + benefits)!

Please call 503-476-5906 or home 503-474-9715

or Voice Com 800-726-7685 ext # 1295

Thank You.

Amy Wilson

PROPERTY
EXEMPTION

OBJECTIVES**COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #1:****GRANTEE:** USDA/NRCS**SITE:** Oregon, Coos County

Southwest Oregon RC&D; Site #: 1 / 1 member

SITE SUPERVISOR: Paul Heikkila**PHONE:** 503-396-3121**COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:**Educate and train landowners and interest groups in watershed activities. *improvement.***1. What work will be done?**

Organize demonstrations, tours and seminars to educate and train landowners and interest groups in watershed enhancement activities and water quality through reduction in non-point source pollution.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

More people will be involved in watershed councils and actively develop and implement projects of benefit to the watershed.

3. How will you measure the quality of work?

Interview and survey participants to evaluate educational activities and demonstrations.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Ten tours, seminars or training events organized; 3 watershed demonstration projects developed, implemented and used for educational purposes.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work of your Member?

300 people directly participating in training activities and indirectly the residents of the Coquille River watershed through improved water quality and fish habitat: approximately 35,000.

OBJECTIVES**COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #1:**

GRANTEE: USDA/NRCS
Southwest Oregon RC&D
Site #: 2 / 1 member

SITE: Oregon, Curry County

SITE SUPERVISOR: Derek Godwin **PHONE:** 503-247-2875

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

Develop & implement watershed education program.

1. What work will be done?

Organize demonstrations, trainings, tours, seminars and educational activities for students, volunteer groups and the general public; assist with development and implementation of demonstration watershed restoration and water quality improvement projects.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

More people will become aware of the contribution they can make to the environment and local groups and volunteers will actively develop and implement watershed enhancement activities.

3. How will you measure the quality of work?

Use evaluation interviews or forms to rate presentations; and monitor participation in watershed enhancement activities through contact with the watershed councils.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

3 educational activities for the general public, 20 school-based educational activities and 3 water quality improvement demonstration projects.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work of your Member?

150 general public, and 1000 K-12 students; indirectly recreational users and inhabitants of the area: 5000.

PROPERTY
RESTRICTION

OBJECTIVES**COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #1:**

GRANTEE: USDA/NRCS **SITE:** Oregon, Douglas County
Southwest Oregon RC&D Site #: 3 / 1 member

SITE SUPERVISOR: Walt Barton **PHONE:** 503-673-8316

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

Educate and train landowners and interest groups in watershed improvement.

1. What work will be done?

Develop and implement demonstration projects, conduct tours, trainings, and seminars for landowners and the general public.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Citizens and landowners will engage in and support watershed enhancement activities.

3. How will you measure the quality of work?

Evaluate trainings and demonstration projects with interviews and forms.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

One demonstration project will be developed and implemented in each of the 4 critical sub-basins, at least 20 landowners in each sub-basin will receive training in watershed enhancement activities.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work of your Member?

80 landowners and users/inhabitants of the 4 sub-basins indirectly over 8,000.

OBJECTIVES**COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #1:**

GRANTEE: USDA/NRCS
Southwest Oregon RC&D
Site #: 4 / 1 member

SITE: Oregon, Jackson County

SITE SUPERVISOR: Marc Prevost **PHONE:** 503-664-6674

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

Engage schools and general public in watershed education projects. ●

1. What work will be done?

Work with teachers and school officials to develop and implement watershed education activities and demonstration projects, write grants for activities requiring funding, develop and distribute educational materials and tools, organize seminars, tours and demonstrations for landowners and the general public.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

More people will become aware of the contribution they can make to improve the environment and there will be an increase in the number of people actively participating in water quality improvement and decreasing non-point source pollution.

3. How will you measure the quality of work?

Use evaluation forms or interviews to see the effectiveness of the educational activities and demonstration projects.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

2 large scale public seminars, 5 demonstration projects, and 10 educational activities resulting in stream enhancement work.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work of your Member?

Direct training of the general public 300, demonstration projects 500, K-12 students 750; indirect impact on over 90,000 residents in urban area and adjacent rural area.

OBJECTIVES**COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #1:**

GRANTEE: USDA/NRCS
Southwest Oregon RC&D
Site #: 5 / 1 member

SITE: Oregon, Douglas County

SITE SUPERVISOR: Lee Russell

PHONE: 503-836-2417

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

Develop outdoor education and recreation sites.

1. What work will be done?

Identify and design outdoor education and recreation sites, write grants for site development funding, organize demonstrations, trainings and seminars on outdoor education and site use.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

More people will be educated about their role in improving the environment and young people will have local activities to deter vandalism and encourage them to stay in the area.

3. How will you measure the quality of work?

Use interviews and surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of trainings and demonstrations and the use of the created sites.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

3 educational/recreational sites created and used by the local schools and the community.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work of your Member?

280 K-12 students and 4,000 people in the three cities and surrounding area.

OBJECTIVES**COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #1:**

GRANTEE: USDA/NRCS
Southwest Oregon RC&D
Site #: 6 / 1 member

SITE: Oregon, Douglas County

SITE SUPERVISOR: Leroy Blodgett **PHONE:** 503-863-3171

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

Provide training for small business to retain and increase jobs and revenue.

1. What work will be done?

Organize
~~Develop and conduct~~ trainings, seminars and tours for local business owners and the general public; identify and train local business advisory teams; conduct demonstration projects.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Local businesses will develop skills to maintain, improve or expand thereby increasing the revenue generated locally and increasing or stabilizing the number of jobs.

3. How will you measure the quality of work?

Use interviews or forms to evaluate the effectiveness of trainings and demonstration activities.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

3 public seminars, one long-term training course for 3 teams of 2 people and 3 demonstration activities.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work of your Member?

150 individuals receive direct business training; over 100 receive business assistance from trained teams, demonstrations will affect 3000 from surrounding communities indirectly.

OBJECTIVES**COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #1:**

GRANTEE: USDA/NRCS
Southwest Oregon RC&D
Site #: 7 / 1 member

SITE: Oregon, Douglas County

SITE SUPERVISOR: Candace Hissong **PHONE:** 503-832-2101

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:

Provide training for community to develop tourism-based industry/economy.

1. What work will be done?

Organize training, tours, demonstrations and seminars for training in small business management, tourism and marketing, develop demonstration projects and database modelling.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Citizens will understand the benefits of the increased tourism and learn ways to improve local standard of living and economy as a result.

3. How will you measure the quality of work?

Use interviews and forms to evaluate the effectiveness of trainings and demonstration activities.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

3 training programs will be developed and implemented 1 each for business, school and general public, two demonstration activities and 1 model database created and used by the public.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work of your Member?

50 member of business community receive direct training, 300 school children, and 200 members of the general public; surrounding counties will benefit indirectly from increased tourism.

OBJECTIVES**COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE #1:**

GRANTEE: ^{USDA} NRCS ^{SW OR RC&D site # 8 / 1 member.} **SITE:** Oregon, Jackson County
SITE SUPERVISOR: Allan Bucta **PHONE:** 503-770-2266

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENT:**1. What work will be done?**

Coordinate and organize 8 needs assessment workshops, assist the evaluation of needs assessment and developing responding projects.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Community needs will be assessed and projects will be developed to address them.

3. How will you measure the quality of work?

Each workshop will be evaluated, and resulting projects will be assessed.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Each workshop will receive 75% satisfactory evaluations and a majority of interest groups and diverse sectors of community will have been represented in at least one workshop. 3 programs will be developed which address needs expressed in workshops.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work of your Member?

Local population of 410 plus surrounding area population of over 200 people.



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

P. O. Box 2890 Washington, D.C. 20013

January 24, 1996

SUBJECT: Approval for Conversions of AmeriCorps Positions in Oklahoma, Portland, Oregon and Maryland

TO: Joel Berg, Director, National Service, USDA

1. The AmeriCorps Project Director in Oklahoma, Leroy Tull, has three full-time vacancies that he would like to convert to three part-time positions. The part-time conversions allow project managers to complete the project work and graduate the AmeriCorps team for FY'96 together. This change does not effect the current operating site objectives.

Original
2 FT PL&E Sentinel
1 FT PL&E Cheyenne

New Approved
2 PT PL&E Sentinel
1 PT PL&E Cheyenne

Approve

Handwritten signature of Joel Berg

Date

1/25/96

Disapprove

Date

2. Below are the changes that need to be approved for Portland, Oregon. These changes have already taken place. Attached are revisions to the Portland objectives. The first quarter report will be based on these objectives.

Original
8 FT PL&E
10 PT PL&E
2 FT RDT

New Approved
10 FT PL&E
6 PT PL&E
2 FT RDT

Approve

Handwritten signature of Joel Berg

Date

1/25/96

Disapprove

Date

ENVIROCORPS COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
AmeriCorps: Renewal Application Update 1995-'96

Objective 1: Metro Watershed Protection

1. What work will be done?

Environmentally oriented restoration and enhancement projects will continue to be developed on both private and public property throughout Portland urban watersheds. Typical projects will involve reestablishment of native plant communities, wildlife habitat improvement, pest plant removal, trash clean-up, and bank stabilization. In addition, demonstration projects will be accomplished which provide community members with opportunities to learn about environmental issues through "naturescaping" projects, educational gardens, and developing trails and interpretive exhibits on project sites where public access is permitted.

EnviroCorps members will continue to develop local partnerships through work with resource agencies, non-profit organizations, and citizen groups to accomplish these projects. Approximately 50% of projects will occur within the Columbia Slough watershed, and the other 50% within other urban watersheds throughout Portland.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Restoration projects will be completed in wetland and riparian sites as well as adjacent upland buffer zones throughout several of Portland's urban watersheds, including the Columbia Slough, Johnson Creek, Trion Creek, and Fanno Creek. Resulting benefits will include wildlife habitat enhancement, water quality improvement, soil conservation, public education, and community participation.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

On the ground restoration and enhancement activities will be evident, including channel modifications, eradication of pest plants, and establishment of native vegetation along a total of 3 miles of riparian habitat and 50 acres of wetland and upland habitat.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

A total of 3 miles of riparian habitat and 50 acres of wetland and upland will be returned to a more natural condition, with an improvement in wildlife habitat, water quality, and soil retention. At least 300 volunteers will participate in community service efforts on projects totalling at least 600 hours of volunteer time.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Participating landowners and the general public throughout the Portland urban environment will

benefit by having more recreational and educational opportunities, an improvement in water quality, and a more aesthetically appealing environment. At least 300 volunteers will learn and contribute to project realization through their service efforts.

Objective 2: Combined Sewer Overflow Program: Downspout Disconnection

1. What work will be done?

Members will work with the City of Portland on a portion of their Combined Sewer Overflow Program. The goal is to disconnect downspouts from the sewer system throughout north Portland. Currently, the majority of downspouts pipe roof runoff directly into the sewer system. Due to the sewer system's limited capacity in north Portland, nearly every time it rains, overflows occur which send raw sewage into the Columbia Slough and Willamette River. The Downspout Disconnection Program will stress homeowner action and partnerships with neighborhood groups to create a community based approach to disconnecting downspouts on a volunteer basis.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Community members will become aware of the issues surrounding the Downspout Disconnection Program, which will lead to widespread participation in the program. At least 50% of the downspouts within targeted areas will be disconnected by the end of the year.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Downspouts will be reconfigured so they are fully functional, but disconnected from the sewer system. The target is to disconnect 50% of the homes in project neighborhoods. At least 30 community volunteers will be trained to disconnect downspouts from the sewer system and help promote the program throughout Portland neighborhoods.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

The percentage of participation by homeowners in target neighborhoods will be used to measure success. The goal is to have at least 50% of the homes disconnected in target areas by the end of the AmeriCorps service year. Disconnected downspouts will be inspected by City personnel to ensure that they were disconnected properly.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

Community members in target neighborhoods will benefit through the learning experience and by contributing to the solution of this water quality problem. The general public will benefit through improved water quality. Those who use the Columbia Slough and Willamette River for recreational purposes will benefit by having safer, healthier water. The public will also receive a long term cost benefit. The more stormwater is removed from the system, the less it will cost

the City to construct a new sewer system to support local growth, hence lower cost will be required by homeowners to pay for sewer system reconstruction.

Objective 3: Environmental Middle School: Environmental Service and Education

1. What work will be done?

Members will work with students and faculty at the Environmental Middle School to implement the service based education curriculum which focuses on environmental services in the community. Members and students will be engaged in numerous watershed and community projects, including restoration and revegetation of stream banks and riparian areas in the Johnson Creek watershed, implementing "naturescaping," participating in the Downspout Disconnection program, and developing demonstrations and exhibits for increasing public awareness on environmental issues.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Students will become engaged in active environmental service projects as part of their education, and the community will have increased levels of participation in environmental improvement activities.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Students will be involved in the implementation and community education of watershed enhancement, "naturescaping", and downspout disconnection. Quality of the service activities will be evident, including channel modifications, eradication of pest plants, and establishment of native vegetation along the Johnson Creek watershed corridor. Public involvement will be measured in hours of volunteers hours of service. Public awareness and education will be measured by number of contacts made and coinciding survey results. Students involved in the service projects will be given pre and post tests to determine the benefit of service activities to their educational attainment.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

90% of the students enrolled in the school will be engaged in environmental service activities; 50% of the residents in the neighborhoods within the Johnson Creek watershed target area will be contacted and/or involved in service activities. This will demonstrate an increased level of educational awareness based on their involvement in the program.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

125 students will participate in service projects for a total of 12,500 service hours. 500 community members will be contacted and informed about environmental service activities and opportunities for service involvement. Three community environmental exhibits will be developed which will be attended by 500 community members.



Voices in the Forest



Summer 1995

Rogue River AmeriCorps

Jacksonville Bridge Project Completed

by Jesse Beccera

Jacksonville, Oregon is the home of many historic sites. We, at Rogue River AmeriCorps, recently were able to contribute to the area. The city of Jacksonville was given a \$4000 grant from the SIMS foundation to build an interpretative trail loop from the Peter Britt Gardens.

A trail making machine was initially used by the Forest Service to turn the existing foot path into a trail accessible to almost everyone. This trail was planned to cross Jackson Creek at two points, and that is where we come into the story. AmeriCorps was recruited to build a bridge to connect the trail across the creek.

A bridge design was chosen to utilize native materials, be accessible to walkers and bikers, and span Jackson



AmeriCorps Members spent many hours on the Jacksonville Bridge, but the results were worth the effort.

"Everyone I talked with was impressed with our bridge and looked forward to when it would become part of the completed loop."

Creek at the narrowest point possible.

On the first day of work we were informed that a water pipe was to be installed at the ford we planned to gap. A new site was chosen thirty feet down stream, but that required almost doubling the length of the stringers. The one tree that had been felled would have been enough for

our needs at the initial site, but another tree had to be felled to get back on task. That was when the real work began.

Two eight foot sills were cut from the trunks of the trees. After being peeled of their bark they were placed on the leveled beds of rock that had been constructed by the skills of the crew.

The moving of the thirty-four foot stringers and eight foot sills was done with log carriers and a Griphoist. It was quite a sight to see eight members using the log carriers on the back of a stringer, while the Griphoist

pulled the front end down the trail and across the creek.

All the measurements and levels were checked, double checked, and then triple checked after every movement. Once the stringers were positioned and secured they were beveled flat on top. It was a very intricate and precise process and it took many more steps than I had imagined.

It finally started to look like a bridge when the decking was going on. The decking was purchased with a portion of the grant money by the city of Jacksonville. The trees used for the railings were donated from the

(Continued on page 2)

On the Work Site...

By Jeremy Shipley

(Continued from page 1)

property of a local resident, Alan Horobin. Mr. Horobin was also our contact with the city.

Once the railing was finished the area around the bridge was rehabilitated. Brush was scattered and the trail got some much needed tread work. Stone and dirt ramps were constructed on either side of the bridge to slope gently down to the trail. With our contribution made, and our job done, the bridge awaited its big day.

On April 22nd the Jacksonville Woodlands Association sponsored the second Hike-A-Thon. Participants hiked along the trail and children from local schools were there to give directions and display signs.

I went to Jacksonville to see how people liked the bridge and I was pleased to hear all the great compliments. Every one I talked with was impressed with our bridge, and looked forward to when it would become part of the completed loop. One man was also amazed that we were able to build a bridge without using any heavy machinery.

The final steps to completion of the trail are still in the planning stages, and hopefully AmeriCorps

"We of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association would like to thank all members of the AmeriCorps who participated in the building of the bridge across Jackson Creek...This construction of yours will be a big asset to the citizens of Jacksonville and tourists alike...It is a beautiful bridge and a fine piece of engineering."

- Alan Horobin

PRUNING: WHY ARE WE HERE?

AmeriCorps has been pruning locally in the Rogue River National Forest for the last 16 weeks in an attempt to properly manage our forest.

The procedure consists of meeting our Forest Service contact and receiving the specifications of the site. When the project is for the sale of the lumber, AmeriCorps members are instructed to prune 17 1/2 feet of one chosen tree, the healthiest tree is preferred, per every 20x20 foot area. Those trees on either side of this area are then pruned by fellow workers along the crew line. "with pruning, you have a tendency to lose interest, but AmeriCorps has been tearing through our goal of 500 acres at an impressive rate," said Bill Murphy, Site Supervisor of the Rogue River AmeriCorps. "At this time we have pruned approximately 28,000 trees," Murphy also stated.

According to Scott Thompson, a Forestry technician with the Rogue River National Forest, pruning is valuable because, "it produces clear wood, with the tree eventually growing around knots, providing for higher quality of lumber at harvest." Thompson continued, "these harvested areas are then regenerated with trees grown locally at J. Herbert Stone Nursery, which provides a good, quality seedling to reestablish the forest."

More recently, AmeriCorps members have been using the pruning process as a method of managing forest fuels and reducing the risk of fire in our forest. Members

prune any type of conifer in a specified area up to 12 feet high. The limbs are then piled in an open area to be burned in the fall. This process reduces the presence of forest fuels. According to Bill Fleeger, "natural fires used to take care of

"The natives who lived here prior to European Settlement had 10,000 years of accumulated knowledge on how to manage forest ecosystems." Bill Fleeger, AmeriCorps projects Manager

pruning and thinning, but now it is necessary to go in manually in order to get this done." He added that pruning to reduce forest fuels is one way to, "compensate for the suppression of naturally occurring fires."

SPIKE!?!

Spare Me!

By Dave Kately

We're going camping now? Yes AmeriCorps members, starting April 17, you and seven to eight of your closest friends will be given a four to five day, all expenses paid (by you) trip to the wilderness (not quite the wilderness, but no plumbing) courtesy of AmeriCorps. No more warm and cozy barracks, roughing it time has arrived. You and your party will pack your van and trailer with all the camping amenities; tents, propane, cook stoves, food, personal gear, and lots of tarps

(Continued on page 3)

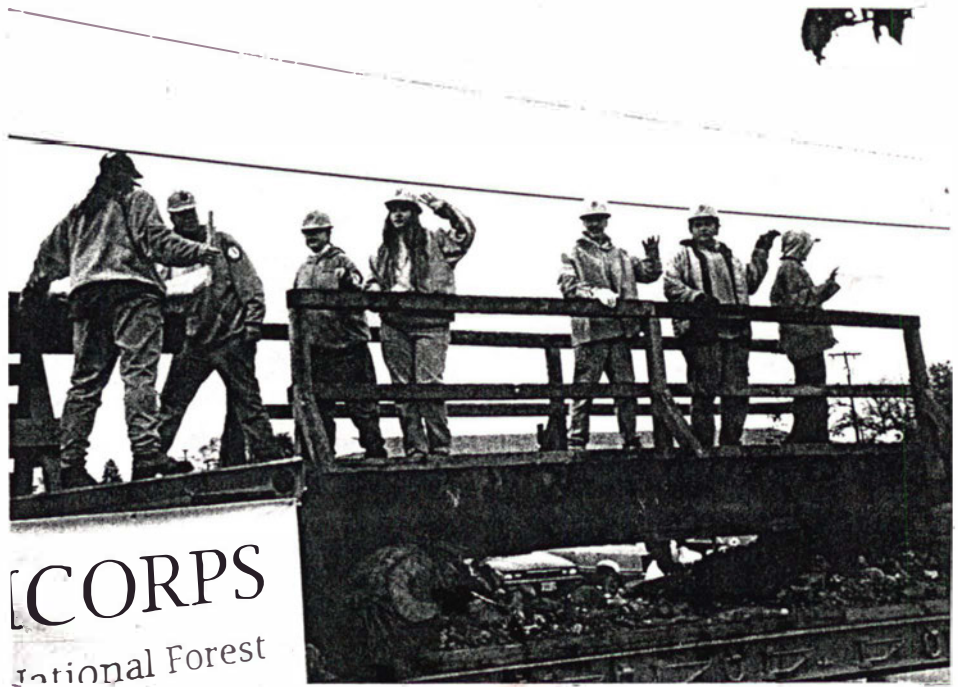
Another Job Well Done

by Coy Wiss

Going into this I thought it was pretty ridiculous, here we are, trained for trail work and we get assigned a float project.

Ryan's crew was told to put together a float for the pear blossom parade. I think my whole crew was against this project from the start, especially after the first day.

We arrived at the Forest Service site in Medford, and we had no idea where to begin. We looked to Forest Service employees to help us locate all the materials we would need. No one present that day new if there were any preconceived ideas as to what the final product was to look like. This minute detail made it very hard to get started. We all looked over what we had to work with, threw some ideas around, accepted the fact that we had no way out of this, and got started.



AmeriCorps members get ready to show off their handy work in the Pear Blossom Parade.

The second day we had a better understanding of what was going on,

so the saws started. The float was to consist of a bridge, a trail head,

(Continued on page 4)

AmeriCorps Camping out...

(Continued from page 2)

(why do we need lots of tarps?). With these supplies you will become a self sufficient, working machine.

Cooperation is a must on spike as crew members help each other to ensure that all tasks are done on time (are you laughing yet?). Two sleeping tents and a mess tent must be raised, food areas set up, and latrines dug (OH JOY!!) With team work and the ever looming "AmeriCorps work ethic" this process runs nice and smooth (hysterical laughter).

On Monday, the 17th of April, Leslie and the rest of the infamous Horny Head Chubs started off the show by being the first crew to brave the outdoors. Moral was low among the Chubs as they knew that they would surely meet the doom of a cold and rainy week.

Big John Maguire, who is new to the idea of roughing it, commented on the upcoming week, "This ----S." So the Chubs were on their way to meet their destiny.

Sources say that due to bad weather and lack of

planning the crew tried an unsuccessful escape attempt. With the AmeriCorps work ethic shining bright, the Chubs overcame and conquered their fears and decided to stick it out. At the conclusion of the week spirits were bright (not shining, but bright) and opinions of most crew members had changed. When asked about the week in whole Big John Maguire explained, " That ----ED."

Spike is a state of mind. You must focus and stay focused to maintain a healthy opinion of the situation. It will be a test of your character and your ability to adapt to the adverse conditions that mother nature sends your way.

Besides the working experience, try to enjoy the life experience that will be occurring all around you out there. So, when the sun shines, soak it up. And when it rains, get soaked, but try to enjoy and remember why you're here. To the Chubs and all the future crews joining ne act, HAVE FUN.

1st Place Float...

(Continued from page 3)

and a crosscut saw demonstration.

The bridge was our primary focus. The sills were placed and secured easily, but it took everyone to move the monstrous stringers onto the trailer. After the bridge was underway we were able to break into groups. We had limited space to work in so projects often got jumbled. Tim Dodge was on the chain saw, I was on the skill saw, and Risa Huetter was on the numbers.

We laid black plastic to keep the soil and gravel from seeping through the cracks of the truck's trailer. Ester Clemence delivered small pine trees loaned to us by the forest service nursery. Esther also brought us various art supplies for the finishing touches.

Wednesday rolled around and we had the sills and the stringers for the

bridge up and we began to lay the decking. We built this bridge big. So big it took a forklift to raise the sills and stringers once we got the decking on. Without the railing on the bridge looked like a train car flat bed. This site was discouraging, but the railing went up fast and the bridge was finally complete.

It was then time for the finishing touches. On Thursday we brought some pine needles, leaves and rocks from around our camp. Our resident painter, Laurel, painted the old wood used for supports, and Risa and I got to work on the area beneath the bridge. Meanwhile, the rest of the crew worked on laying out the materials we brought and spit shining the truck.

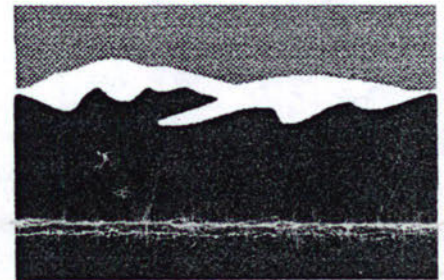
Risa and I laid more plastic and put down more dirt and gravel. After many different ideas and attempts the

simulated water turned out OK.

Once we stepped back to look at what we had done thoughts changed. This job went from a job that was not meant for us, to a job in which we learned somethings we could use later. Just a few of these skills include knowing how to build a bridge and how to use a crosscut.

The day of the parade arrived and we did our waving and smiling in the cold rains only to find out that all our efforts had paid off.

We were awarded 1st place in commercial floats.



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