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Louisiana



"Getting Things Done"

1995-1996



USDA/AmeriCorps

Louisiana

Mission:

To engage a diverse group of Americans in working partnerships with communities to provide real and measurable service to meet environmental and human needs, while earning education benefits and building an ethic of service, responsibility, and citizenship.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



USDA/AmeriCorps Panel Interview Session Thursday, October 12, 1995

10:00	Welcome and Introductions What is AmeriCorps?	Billy Moore <i>NRCS AmeriCorps Project Director</i>
10:15-10:30	Introduction to the Dry Fire Hydrant Project (DH)	Elzey Simmons <i>RC&D Coordinator</i> Jim Neveu <i>RC&D Coordinator</i> Benny Dobson <i>RC&D Coordinator</i>
10:30-10:45	Introduction to Farm*A*Syst Groundwater Protection Project (FAS)	Steve Nipper <i>Water Quality Specialist</i> Joe Roetker <i>District Conservationist</i>
10:45-3:00	Panel Interviews	<i>Individual Interviews Lasting Approximately 15 Minutes Each</i>
	Panel: Steve Nipper Elzey Simmons Benny Dobson Joe Roetker Jim Neveu	Monroe - 2 FAS Positions Ruston - 1 DH Position Natchitoches - 1 DH Position Denham Springs - 1 FAS Position Jennings - 1 DH Position

October 16-20, 1995

Telephone Calls to Notify Applicants of Selections



ORIENTATION

October 30, 1995



USDA/AMERICORPS LOUISIANA



AmeriCorps Pledge

I will get things done for America--to make our
people safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together--to strengthen our
communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

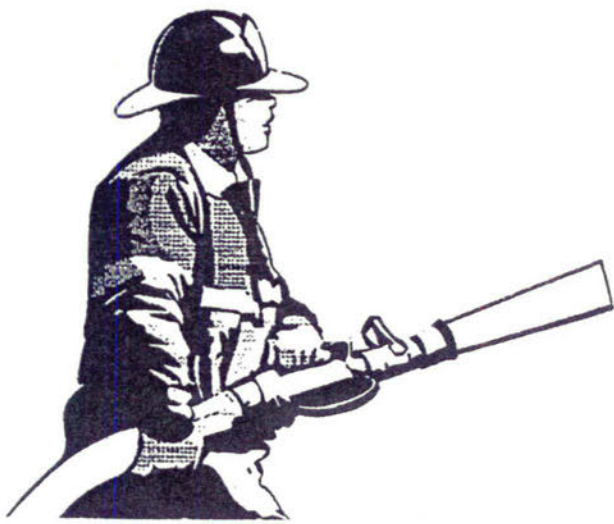
Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member...

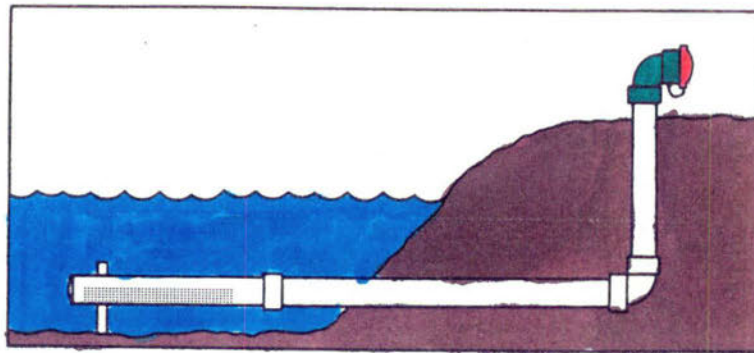
AND I AM GOING TO GET THINGS DONE.

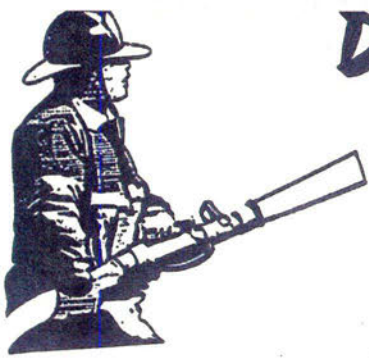


DRY FIRE HYDRANTS PROGRAM

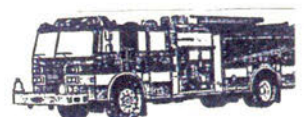
Five USDA/NRCS AmeriCorps Members were recruited to help plan and coordinate the installation of over 2,000 dry hydrants in rural areas of Louisiana.

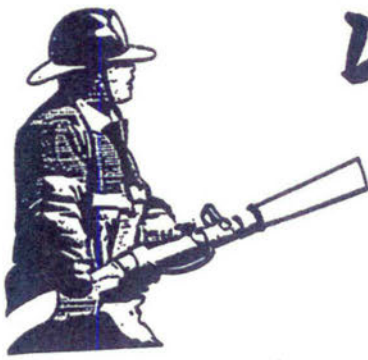
A dry fire hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds and streams that provide a ready means of water supply to a tank truck.





DRY FIRE HYDRANTS PROGRAM





DRY FIRE HYDRANTS PROGRAM



USDA/NRCS AmeriCorps Members and Duty Station

Dry Fire Hydrant Coordinators



Tom Morton
Trailblazer RC&D
Ruston, LA



Robin Torrence
Capital RC&D
Denham Springs, LA



John Tom Murray
Northeast Delta RC&D
Winnsboro, LA



Nancy Dyer
Twin Valley RC&D
Natchitoches, LA



Donna Haydel
Imperial Calcasieu RC&I
Jennings, LA



The Sunday Journal

Greater Avoyelles
La Bonne Gazette des Avoyelles

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Vol. 18, No. 37

July 14, 1996

Dry fire hydrants could lower ratings

The installation of 35 dry fire hydrants planned for Avoyelles Parish could help lower fire insurance costs for rural residents. The most recent installation was July 9 on the Tunica-Biloxi Indian Reservation in Marksville, in the pond to the right of the entrance.

A dry fire hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system permanently installed in an existing lake, pond or stream. The dry hydrant provides a water delivery system that allows tank trucks or pumpers to use suction to obtain water from the roadside hydrant.

Properly installed, dry hydrants can eliminate the problem of hauling water over long distances for use in fires or road maintenance, and provide natural, unprocessed water for use.

Results include energy savings to consumers and road maintenance departments, rural fire protection and lower insurance ratings.

Agencies involved in Tuesday's installation included USDA/AmeriCorps National Service represented by Nancy Dyer, Natural Resources Conservation Service represented by Benny Dobson, Twin Valley RC&D, Mansura Fire Department represented by Tommy Simon, Linster Guillot and Dalvin Warren, and Bunkie Fire Department, represented by Joey Frank.

The installation took about three hours, according to Larry Burgess, Tunica-Biloxi Tribal Planner.

The Statewide Dry Hydrant Program is partially funded by a grant

from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources-Energy Division.

Thus far, six dry fire hydrants have been installed and certified in Avoyelles, said Ms. Dyer. Others

are awaiting certification. All hydrants are to be completed by September 15, Ms. Dyer said.



Installation and testing.

Mansura and Bunkie firemen lend a hand in the installation and testing of a dry fire hydrant on the Tunica-Biloxi Reservation in Marksville Tuesday, July 9.

Shown from left to right are Larry Burgess, Tunica-Biloxi Tribal Planner; Joey Frank of the Bunkie Fire Department; and Linster Guillot, Dalvin Warren and Tommy Simon of the Mansura Fire Department.

Your point of view

Dear Editor,
Vermilion Parish is presently participating in the statewide dry fire hydrant program. A dry fire hydrant is a hydrant that is connected to a non-pressurized source of water. Fire trucks can connect suction hoses and fill their tanks from sources such as ponds and bayous. These hydrants are located in areas where pressurized sources are not available. By using these hydrants for fire fighting, it also reduces the amount

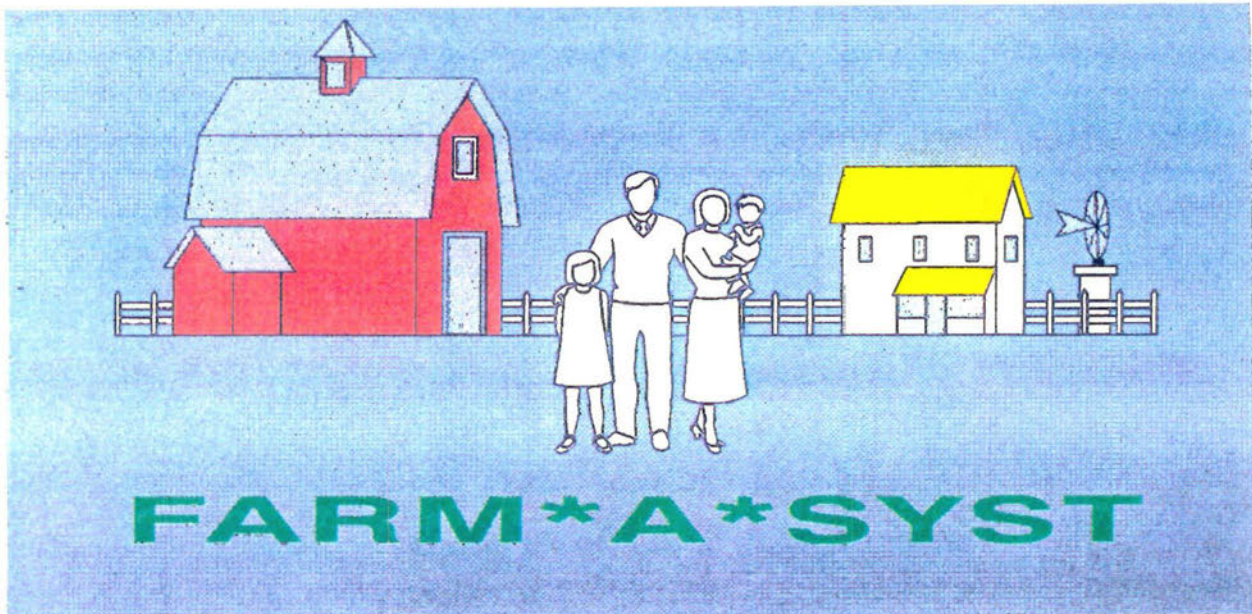
of treated water that would have been used from the municipal supplies. 30

With the assistance of the Police Jury, 15 Drainage Districts and farmers these structures are being installed throughout Vermilion Parish. Local firefighters, soil and water conservation district employees, RC&D council members and NRCS employees are all cooperating on this project. Vermilion Parish has been allocated 45 hydrants to be installed parishwide, with locations determined by the fire department personnel themselves. These hydrants will assist in providing better fire protection and hopefully play a part in improving the insurance rating when the parish is rated by the Public Insurance Association of Louisiana in 1997.

These hydrants have been made possible through a grant from the Department of Natural Resources and being administered our area by the Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development Council. Donna Haydel, Americorp employee is the RC&D Dry Fire Hydrant Coordinator for the Acadiana Council. Because of the cooperation of all people and agencies mentioned, this program will be a success and benefit all Vermilion Parish residents. 50

Donald Menard
Vermilion Parish Hydrant Coordinator
Acadiana RC&D Council Member





Three USDA/NRCS AmeriCorps Members were recruited to help landowners assess risks to their groundwater using Farm*A*Syst Groundwater Protection Program worksheets. Members worked to increase the public's awareness of risks to groundwater. Threats to Louisiana's groundwater will be minimized because of the work of these members.

USDA/NRCS AmeriCorps Members and Duty Station

Sandra Smith - NRCS Monroe Area Office

Susan Mattox - NRCS Monroe Area Office

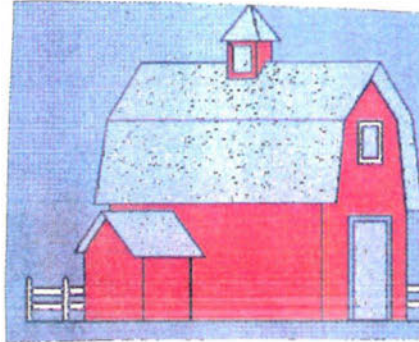
Irvin Fekete - NRCS Denham Springs Field Office



FARM *A* SYST

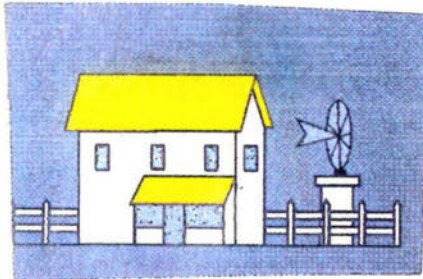


Irvin Fekete teaching high school students about Farm*A*Syst.



Sandra Smith at Earth Day.





FARM *A* SYST



Susan Mattox says,
 "It's tough to find people with wells who do not have dogs!!!"





Louisiana State University

Agricultural Center

Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

8/19/96

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 25100
Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5100

Office: Knapp Hall
(504) 388-4141
Fax: (504) 388-2478

Don Gohmert
State Conservationist
USDA NRCS
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302

Dear Don:

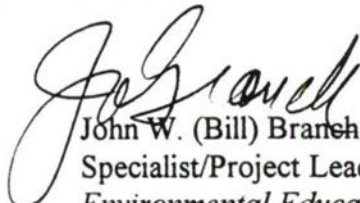
As this second year of NRCS support of the AmeriCorps program draws to a close, I want to tell you how much I have enjoyed working with Irvin Fekete, Sandra Smith and Susan Mattox. They have made a positive contribution to the safety of private water well users in Louisiana.

Their enthusiasm for learning about water well construction, maintenance and operation and about threats to water well safety has helped them prepare for working with their clientele. Their attitude of wanting to help and be of service has gained them the trust and respect of an audience which is not receptive to someone coming on the farm and asking questions.

Irvin and I have been on numerous programs together and his professionalism has been well received. His initiative in pursuing water well testing has resulted in a low cost opportunity for microbial water quality testing being made available.

You are to be commended for combining AmeriCorps and Farm*A*Syst. Thank you for the efforts of Billy Moore and Holly Martien in Alexandria and Joe Roetker and Steve Nipper in Denham Springs and Monroe. I especially thank you for bringing Irvin, Sandra and Susan into the program. I look forward to working with them in some other capacity in the future.

Sincerely,


John W. (Bill) Branch
Specialist/Project Leader
Environmental Education

JWB:cdl

c: Dr. Jack L. Bagent
Dr. Clinton G. Depew
Dr. Fred E. (Gene) Baker



Protect your well water

How safe is your drinking water? If you're like most rural homeowners, farmers or ranchers, you're concerned about protecting your own drinking water. Did you know that your farmstead, depending on your management, can be a major source of groundwater contamination? This means that your family, livestock and neighbors could be at risk.

How can you find out if there is a danger or if you have a problem? Glad you asked! Currently there is only one major program available to assist private well owners in protecting groundwater.

The Farm*A*Syst program uses easy, step-by-step worksheets that rank each farmstead activity or structure that could cause ground water contamination.

After going through the easy worksheets, you will use these rankings and the additional informational brochures to develop an overall action for protecting your drinking water. Farm*A*Syst is a confidential assessment that you can use on your own, or by talking with local experts.

You decide what to do with the results of your assessment of your farmstead and rural residence at little or no cost and best of all, you are in control because the intent of this program is educational.

Today Louisiana is playing an important part in the Farm*A*Syst program by being a pilot study program stat for the University of Wisconsin. Louisiana is the very first state to help conduct a cost/benefit analysis of Farm*A*Syst. With the combined efforts of AmeriCorps members assigned to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana can be a pioneer in this progressive program.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bipartisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans.

The majority of AmeriCorps

Members are working in partnerships with state, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 teams and a Rural Development team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects designed to get things done while boosting community, opportunity and responsibility.

If you would like to participate or find out more about the Farm*A*Syst program, please contact your local district conservationist. In East Carroll Parish, please contact Floyd Hooker our Lake Providence Natural Resources Conservation Service field office, at 318-559-2604 or call Steve Nipper in Monroe at 318-387-8683.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, reli-

(Continued to page 14)

Water—

(Continued from page 13)

gion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA, Office of Communi-

cations at 202-720-5881 (voice) or 202-720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 20250, or call 202-720-7327 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.



Linda K. Cummings
RT. 2 Box 357
Columbia, LA. 71418

AmeriCorps
1605 Arizona St.
Monroe, LA. 71202
March 11, 1996

To Whom it may concern;

I am writing to express my sincere Thanks for the recent visit by AmeriCorps personnel Sandra Smith and Susan Mattox. They provided to myself and my husband information about how to protect our well water, and pointed out potential problems that could affect the quality of water we drink. Their professionalism, knowledge, and patience explaining the literature was commendable.

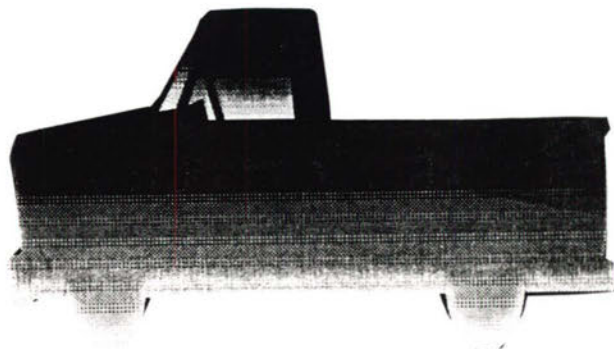
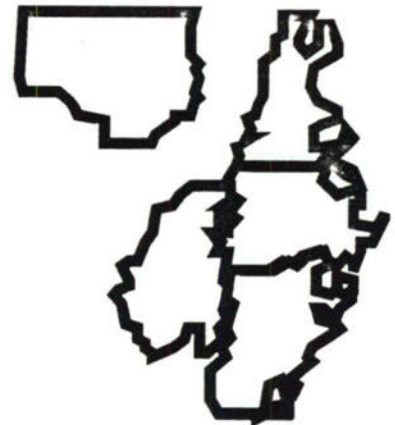
Thank you once again AmeriCorps for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Linda K. Cummings
Linda K. Cummings

Sandra and Susan traveling in Elvis!

"The King of Rock and Roll"



OAK GROVE, LOUISIANA 71263

(318) 428-9670
FAX (318) 428-2476
MARCH 12, 1996

TO: SUSAN AND SANDY
FROM: IRENE ROBINSON, PRESIDENT
KWCL-FM



RE: MIGHTY MESS APPEARANCE

Thank you so much for appearing on the Mighty Mess with Don and I. Your program was definitely informative and after talking with some of our listeners, I feel you probably dispelled some of the concerns they may have had.

One of our listeners, in particular, was impressed with your knowledge of the water systems. They stated that you either knew your field really well or someone had taught you well, based on the use of some of the technical terms in our conversation. He said you were obviously on top of your field.

Keep us informed on your project and remember to contact us if we can be of any further assistance.



Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Environmental Team Golden Meadows Plant Materials Center 1995-1996



Garland M. Gisclair: "AmeriCorps has helped me to better understand and work with other people. I am thankful for this unique experience. I am going to continue to work in attaining a degree in biology. I will pursue a career in Medical Technology."

Rebekah R. Richoux: "The future is not what someone holds, it's what you do with the time you have in your hands. For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to you a hope and a future." (1 Corinthians) Nicholls State University

Clay M. Hebert: "I think this was a great experience that I will never forget, and everyone should undergo. I learned a lot from this job. I also worked very hard for my education. I will appreciate the money for school. I have taken the first step towards the rest of my life."

Eric J. Arabie: "This AmeriCorps adventure gave me new experiences I wanted. It helped me to further myself in all aspects. I realize that I would like to go back to college to extend my education."

Tiffany E. Arabie: "The work I did was really hard. It all paid off at the end. My college money will help out a lot. I plan on going to school to be an X-ray Technician."

Penny M. LeBoeuf: "I plan on becoming a very successful person after AmeriCorps. I will pursue a career in law enforcement."

Susan C. Terrebonne, Team Leader: "AmeriCorps has been a new beginning and a very fulfilling experience for me. It has given me hands on experience in an area of deep concern and interest. I plan on continuing my education. I've been married for 21 years and we have four children."

AmeriCorps Environmental Team Visits School



The USDA AmeriCorps Environmental team visited Thibodaux High School on February 22, 1996. Mr. Guy Harvey was very interested and supportive. Hardly any of the students seemed interested initially, but Rebekah broke the ice. She and Susan started handing out flyers and pamphlets to students. Some of the students then approached us for more information. We took a picture of Mr. Harvey with the group.

The team visited Central Lafourche the following day. The guidance counselor Mrs. Jones set up our visit and was supportive of us. We set up in front of their office. We were out of the "flow." The team compensated by going into the halls to pass out our literature about AmeriCorps to the students. They asked very good questions about our projects and what we do. Gary's son came by and visited our display. The principal, Ms. DeCuir posed for a picture with us.

The team had visited South Lafourche High School on January 22, 1996. We set up our display in front of the main office. At the noon recess students strolled by to look over the display and gather materials. Some of the members from this school had a chance to visit with some of their friends and talk to them about AmeriCorps. We took pictures of the members, students and the principal with the group. We also visited with Mr. Michael St. Pierre's science class. We demonstrated how we propagated plants at the greenhouse. We answered questions about AmeriCorps, the Plant Materials Center and the environment. The students were very responsive and curious. It was a good visit. We had requests from other teachers to return.

Fourchon Sand Fence Project

On the 26th, 27th, and 28th of February, the USDA/AmeriCorps National Service team and members of the NRCS Plant Materials Center of Golden Meadow went to the beach located at Port Fourchon to establish sand fences. These fences trap the sand as the wind blows through them, thus creating a dune. The dune helps prevent washover from the Gulf which breaks up our barrier island. The team then planted over a thousand grasses of different varieties to help hold the new dune in place.

The team established over 1,000 feet of sand fence initially. With an Entergy grant of \$500, a donation from the Thibodaux SWCD, and donation of fencing posts from Chevron the team was able to establish an additional 2,300 feet of fencing. These fences are constructed with 4" x 4" x 8' treated posts or landscaping timbers spaced 5 feet apart and buried 4 feet in the sand. After the posts were put in place, the fencing material was rolled out and spread along the wall of posts. Different types of fencing materials were used to determine which types were most effective. The majority of the fencing material used consisted of ½" x 1½" slats of wood tied with wire. The fencing was stretched and nailed to each 4" x 4" post at the top and bottom of the fence to keep the fence straight and tight. Wire is then placed over the nailed slats and tied around the posts to reinforce the durability.





the Lafourche Gazette

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
IFPA.
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
PENDENT FREE PAPERS
OF AMERICA

Sheriff Craig Webre and his department.
Fine said that perhaps if the public were educated as to the importance of the project

that the vandalism may stop.
The Golden Meadow team plans on planting grasses on the dunes after they have been built to sufficient elevations.

They are also experimenting with different grass at their Galliano facility to see how they perform in different situations with the goal being to release a plant which will

work and make the plant available to the public. The group has also planted grass along Bayou Lafourche in badly eroded areas. . . .

March 27, 1996

Beach erosion project thwarted by thieves

by Joel Pierce
Recently, ten young volunteers working with Ameri Corps along with their supervisor, Mr. Gary Fine, have been doing work on a project at Fourchon Beach which may have a positive affect on beach goers.

These volunteers work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture with the National Agencies Conservation Services, at the Golden Meadow Plant Material Center.

The Fourchon Beach is said

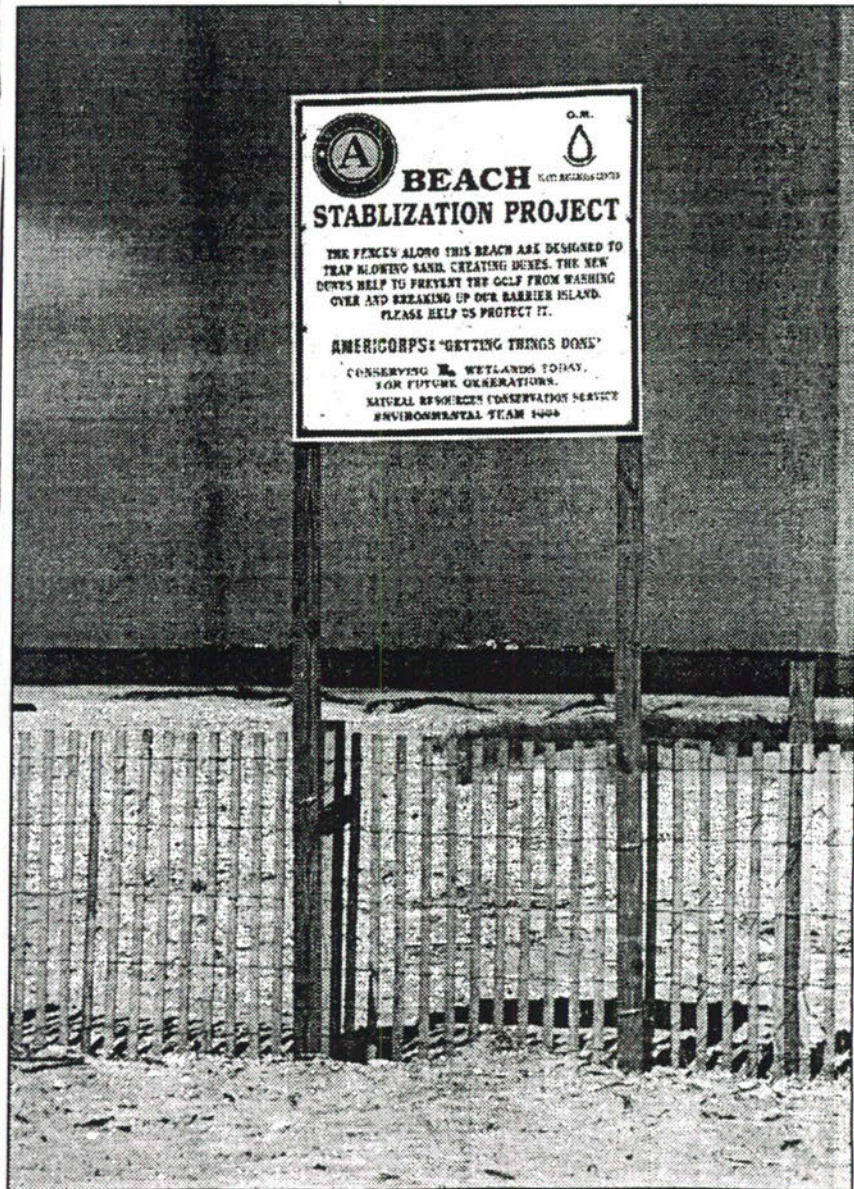
to be eroding at a rate of 33 feet per year and this is what Ameri Corps is fighting.

The Golden Meadow Plant Material Center volunteers have been experimenting with the building of sand dunes at the Fourchon Beach. The method by which they achieve the dune building is by erecting a slat fence. This fence traps sand which is blown by the wind and drops it, thus building the dune.

The project has had great

Beach

continued page 2



Pictured are some of the slat fencing erected by Ameri Corps volunteers to aid in the building of sand dunes at Fourchon Beach through the Beach Stabilization Project.

Recently thieves have stolen approximately four to five hundred feet of the erected fence.

AmeriCorps Members participate in Christmas Tree Project



On January 29, 1996, we started a Christmas tree project in Leesville, Louisiana behind Big Glenn's. This involves a lot of effort and balance. The effort is hard, but the balance is nearly impossible. We would load trees on the truck at the delivery site and bring them across the road to the placement site. We had to drag the trees across mud and water, walking on Christmas trees in three foot wide cribs. That's where the balance comes in. After four days of work, our AmeriCorps team had placed about 1,500 trees.

On February 6, we started another project in Fourchon. This one was a little easier because we used a boat to bring the trees to the cribs. It took about two days to place about 1,000 trees. After all the trees were placed, we saved one tree for Aaron Caliouet. We had media coverage on that day by CCTV-5 and the Daily Comet. There were several people on hand for this ceremony including: Kirk Kilgen, DNR investigator, Kenneth Bollinger, DNR project, Jerome Danos, Solid Waste Coordinator, Brent Duet, CZM, Gary Fine, PMC, Grady Galliano, PMC, and AmeriCorps team members.

We placed these trees in order to slow down the damage done to the land by the wake made by boats and natural causes. Hopefully, what we did will have an impact on our environment if it is not destroyed by a hurricane or tropical storm.

Bayou Lafourche Stabilization Project

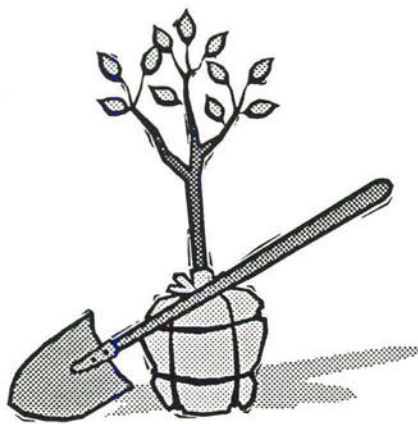
On February 13, 1996, the USDA AmeriCorps Team started planting the spoil banks of Bayou Lafourche. The Texas Team helped us plant from the Cote Blanch Bridge south. We planted on both sides of the bayou. About a 3/4's of a mile was planted. We made Wayne, a Texas member, an honorary Louisiana member. We pulled the giant cut grass from the ponds and LL&E's canals.

On March 4th thru 6th, we again planted along the spoil banks. We were in the soft mud of the bayou bottom up to our knees and hips. We planted over 3 miles along Highway 308 and Highway 1. On March 13th and 14th, we again planted along the banks. We planted along both sides of the highway above and below the upper Cut Off Bridge, by McDonalds. It was difficult in some places. We had a few people in cars stop and ask up who we were and what we were doing. We had no trouble with parking. Everyone we asked if we could park there temporarily, said "No problem." We planted 1 1/4 miles on this outing. Before we left on the last day, Rebekah, Neal, and Clay decided to have a race. They all lined up for the count down. It was a sight to see them on hands and knees in the semi-soft bayou bottom ready for take-off. On "go", they all took off. Scurrying like tootaloos across the bottom, they were a hilarious sight. Rebekah won! (Muddy hands down)

This project is very important for the Stabilization of the banks of the bayou. We need to protect them from erosion and undermining the highways. It's a fun and interesting job. Callais Cablevision filmed us at our work. Several of the members gave interviews. To date, we have planted over 5 miles and over 5,000 plants. We will surpass our objective totals soon.



Texas AmeriCorps and Louisiana's Environmental Team
working together on Bayou Lafourche
Stabilization Project



AmeriCorps participates on Mud Lake Restoration Project

The USDA AmeriCorps Environmental Team located at the NRCS Plant Materials Center in Golden Meadow, was asked to assist on a project in Cameron Parish. The project was sponsored by the Gulf Coast Soil and Water Conservation District. The project, officially listed as East Mud Lake Marsh Restoration and Protection Project, is an 8,054-acre portion of a 29,788-acre tract of land in Cameron. Significant loss of marsh has occurred within the project area in recent years, a problem shared by most areas of coastal Louisiana. The object of the project was to restore a hydrological regime within the project area and adjacent wetlands which will be conducive to the restoration and protection of Mud Lake and the adjacent wetlands. The project will be managed as brackish marsh for waterfowl, alligators, furbearers, and fisheries, plus provide nursery areas for estuarine-dependent marine organisms. The goals are: 1) to control erosion and reclaim eroded areas to emergent vegetation, 2) reduce rapid fluctuations of water levels, 3) stabilize salinity, 4) encourage growth of Widgeon grass, especially in the south end of Mud Lake and the adjacent marshes, 5) insure adequate ingress-egress of marine organisms into Mud Lake and the adjacent marshes, 6) modify any future oil and gas exploration activity as needed to protect the integrity of the management system, 7) increase fresh water and 8) improve water circulation.

The AmeriCorps Team traveled to Cameron Parish on Monday, May 6th and returned on Friday, May 10th. The first week, 6 team members planted 6,400 containerized smooth cord grass plants in three days. The following week, May 13th to 17th, 7 members planted 8,000 smooth cord grass plants in 3 1/2 days. The team used an air boat, skiff, and a 4-wheeler with attached trailer to get to the remote sites with the plants. Some sites were accessible by walking. The team was praised for their work on this project.





AmeriCorps

Rural Development Members

Delores Druilhet Franklin

Sheila Lyons Jonesville

Rebecca Marcotte New Iberia

Linda Rigsby Many

Lisa Shuff Opelousas

Theresa Smith Cullen

Carl Collins Tallulah

Jessica Dean Marksville

Demetris Howard Natchitoches

Mary Huff Winnsboro

Kimberly Kitterlin Jonesville

Robert Tonn Jennings

Andre Washington Ruston

Ella Watkins Bastrop



Delores Druilhet
Franklin, LA

Home Ownership Workshop



Housing Department Staff

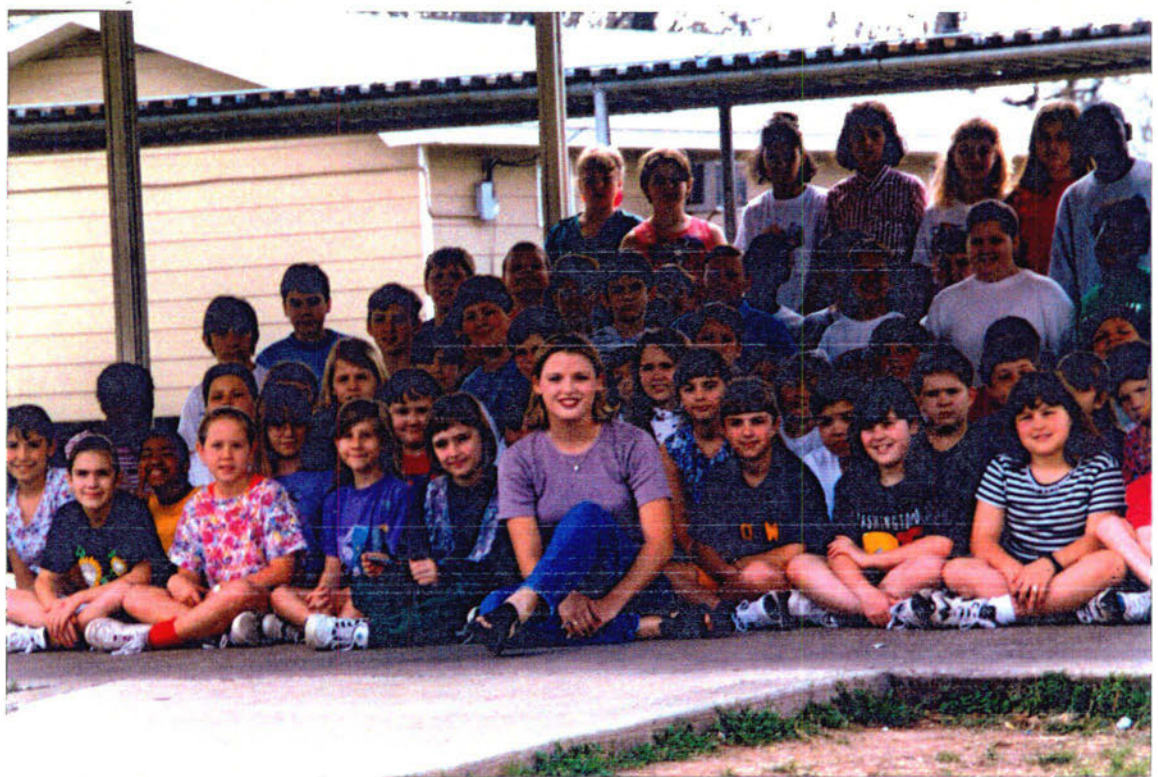


Sparrow Gardens
Housing
Development



*Linda Rigsby
Many, La
Works with Youth Council*





Jessica Dean- works with elementary students in DARE program



Theresa Smith- directs neighborhood cleanup projects



*Sheila Lyons
conducts tutoring programs*



Ella Watkins



Carl Collins- works with the Council on Aging



Rebecca Marcotte- stencils storm drain covers



Lisa Shuff- takes applications for affordable housing



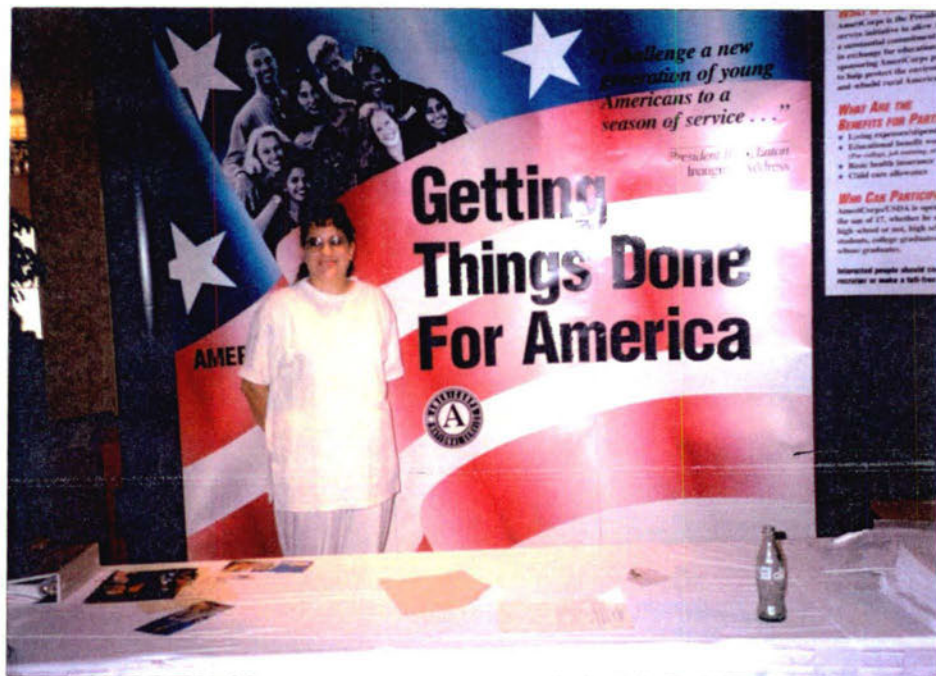
Demetris Howard-
volunteers in soup kitchen



Andre Washington-
gives home ownership workshop

RURAL DEVELOPMENT NATIONAL TRAINING WEEK









FEDERAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM
CONSERVATION TOUR

HELPING HANDS

AT THE
GOLDEN MEADOW PLANT
MATERIALS CENTER

APRIL 16-18, 1996

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A
CONSERVATION TOUR SPONSORED BY
THE FEDERAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM.

DURING THIS TOUR YOU WILL LEARN
NEW AND EXCITING THINGS ABOUT
THE NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE AND GAIN
A GREATER APPRECIATION OF THE
HARD WORK INVOLVED IN GETTING
CONSERVATION ON THE LAND.

PARTICIPANTS:

AMERICORPS MEMBERS: Eric Arabie
Tiffany Arabie
Nancy Dyer
Jean Eynard
Jean Guidry
Donna Haydel
Clay Hebert
Penny LeBoeuf
Neal Ledet
Rebecca Richoux
Sandra Smith
Susan Terrebone

NRCS STATE OFFICE: Patti Daye
Theresa Harts
Holly Martien
Marilyn Rabalais
Shelia Rylands
Cherly Walters

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY: Jin Cheng
Zenobia Washington

YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- * HOW OUR AGENCY IS HELPING TO RESTORE LOUISIANA'S COASTAL WETLANDS
- * THE OPERATIONS OF THE GOLDEN MEADOW PLANT MATERIALS CENTER
- * THE USDA/AMERICORPS ENVIROMENTAL TEAM AT THE GOLDEN MEADOW PLANT MATERIALS CENTER
- * THE LAFOURCHE-TERREBONE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
- * THE NATIONAL PLANT DATA COLLECTION CENTER AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY IN BATON ROUGE

AND.....

YOU WILL WORK SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE USDA/AMERICORPS ENVIROMENTAL TEAM TO PLANT UP TO 1,000 SMOOTH CORDGRASS PLANTS ALONG A LEVEE ON LITTLE LAKE!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING US? PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED CONFIRMATION OF ATTENDANCE FORM AND FAX IT TO ME BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON APRIL 10, 1996.

HOLLY L. MARTIEN
FEDERAL WOMEN'S PROGRAM MANAGER
LOUISIANA





**Federal Women's Program Tour
Shoreline Erosion Control Project
Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center
April 16-18, 1996**

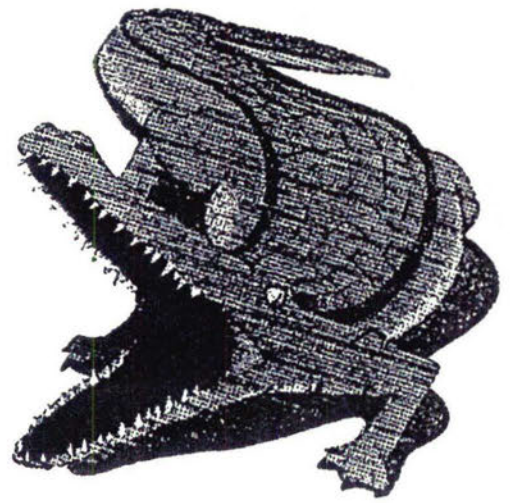


Date	Time	Item	Comments
Tuesday April 16, 1996	8:00 a.m.	Depart State Office	4 Vans
	9:30 a.m.	Arrive Lafayette Field Office Project Support Staff Office	Presentation on conservation activities at FOPSS
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch	Prejeans Cost \$6 - \$15
	1:00 p.m.	Depart Lafayette	
	4:00 p.m.	Arrive Plant Materials Center	
		Evening Meal - On Your Own	
Wednesday April 17, 1996	7:00 a.m.	Breakfast	On Your Own - Kitchen is Available
	7:30 a.m.	Assemble in Meeting Room for Briefing on Project	Gary Fine
	8:30 a.m.	Depart PMC for Little Lake - Lafourche Parish	
	9:30 a.m.	Arrive at Little Lake	Shoreline Stabilization Planting of up to 1,000 Smooth Cordgrass Plants Along Levee on Little Lake
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch	Provided by Lafourche-Terrebonne Soil and Water Conservation District
	12:45 p.m.	Return to Work	
	4:00 p.m.	Return to PMC	
	6:00 p.m.	Crawfish Boil	Provided by Lafourche-Terrebonne Soil and Water Conservation District
Thursday April 18, 1996	9:00 a.m.	Depart PMC	
	12:00 p.m.	Arrive Baton Rouge - Lunch	Schwabs in Brusly - Cajun Buffet Cost \$5 - \$10
	1:00 p.m.	Arrive Southern University - National Plant Data Collection Center	Information Tour - How the Center Works
	3:00 p.m.	Depart Baton Rouge	
	5:30 p.m.	Arrive Alexandria State Office	



What to wear for planting: Old Clothes, Shorts if Hot-Long Pants if Cool, Old Tennis Shoes That You Don't Mind Getting Muddy.









UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

April 2, 1996

To: USDA AmeriCorps State Coordinators and Site Supervisors

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

Subject: Activities in Commemoration of Oklahoma City Bombing

To commemorate the first anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, USDA AmeriCorps members in Claremore, Oklahoma will plant trees in honor of the bombing victims. On April 23, the National Day of Service, AmeriCorps members in Oklahoma City will help repair facilities that were damaged by the bombing.

We are hoping that as many USDA AmeriCorps sites as possible will coordinate service activities on one or both those days to pay homage to the bombing victims.

We are particularly encouraging sites to plant commemorative trees. If you are planning to do so, you may be able to obtain the trees -- as well as technical assistance ---- from you state forester. A list of state foresters is attached -- they should have been notified that you will contact them.

No matter what activities you may be planning for the 19th or 23rd, please work to recruit as many non-AmeriCorps community volunteers to join the project that day. Also, please invite local elected officials, community leaders, and media to participate in the event.

Please fax in the attached form as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Jones at 202-690-3507 or Katherine Gibney at 202-720-4369.

Tree planting to honor victims

By DUSTY SHENOFSKY
Daily News Staff Writer

In memory of the victims of the terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City almost one year ago, a local Jennings woman will be planting a tree.

Donna Haydel, a U.S. Department of Agriculture and AmeriCorps member, will plant the tree during a private service at 9 a.m. Friday morning at West End Elementary.

Haydel, who also works with the Imperial Calcasieu Resource Conservation and Development Council, said she had wanted to remember the victims, especially the children who perished, in some way on the anniversary of their death, April 19.

"I decided to chose a tree because it would continue to live and

I just felt I needed to do something in their honor because so many children did die.

— Donna Haydel



Tree

Continued from Page 1A

grow in honor of their lives which were cut so terribly short," Haydel said.

"I just felt I needed to do something in their honor because so many children did die," she said. "And really, this type of accident could have occurred anywhere, to anyone. We need to remember them, and try to avoid this from happening again."

Principal Albay Hanks, of West End Elementary, is honored that a tree will be planted at West End.

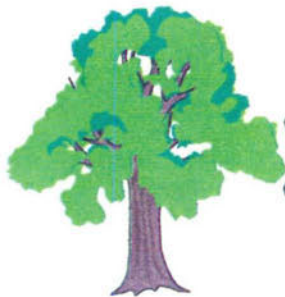
"We are pleased to have been selected as a site to have a tree planted in memory of the Oklahoma bombing," Hanks said.

"It is important for our community to understand that life goes on no matter what; and what better way with the planting of a tree that is always growing," he said.

As a member of AmeriCorps, Haydel works within the community to do service projects such as this one. She also works at the RC&D to coordinate the installation of dry fire hydrants in rural areas. AmeriCorps is President Bill Clinton's National Service program, passed by bipartisan support from Congress.

AmeriCorps engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, graduate school or to pay back student loans.

Many of AmeriCorps' projects are sponsored by community-based organizations, and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity and responsibility.



Commemorating the Anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing

Carl Collins.....
plants pink hackberry tree
at local school in Tallulah



Linda Rigsby.....
and the Youth Council help
Town of Many Mayor and
city officials plant tree at
City Hall.

Robin Torrence.....
plants tree at Exploration
Station



National Day of Service Activities

National Volunteer Week - April 21-27, 1996

National Day of Service - April 23, 1996

During this time, our nation will come together to celebrate the spirit of service!

The following USDA/AmeriCorps members participated in a teleconference on Monday, April 8, 1996, to plan National Day of Service activities: Donna Haydel, Nancy Dyer, Robert Tonn, Delores Druilhet, Tom Morton, Linda Rigsby, Sheila Lyons, Sandra Smith, and Robin Torrence. Holly Martien, NRCS AmeriCorps coordinator, facilitated the teleconference. Upcoming National Day of Service activities were discussed, and members were encouraged to work together to plan activities.

All members are required to participate in a community-based activity either on the National Day of Service or during National Volunteer Week.

Following is a list of activities planned. **If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please CALL THE CONTACT PERSON LISTED FOR THE EVENT BY APRIL 12, 1996!** If you have planned other National Day of Service activities, please contact your agency representative AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If you have any questions, please contact your agency representative. **PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR!**

Date	Event/Description
April 19, 1996	Sabine Parish Tree Planting - Plant cypress trees along reservoir. Great opportunity to get outside and work with youth! Project Celebration House Many, Louisiana Sabine Parish 3:15 p.m. Contact Linda Rigsby for more information (318-256-6242).
April 19, 1996	Baton Rouge Food Bank - Assist with packing food for families in Baton Rouge. Meaningful work to help people! Baton Rouge, Louisiana Contact Robin Torrence for more information (504-664-5368)
April 21, 1996	Forestry Awareness Hike - Forestry awareness hike with the Youth Council. Wonderful chance to become one with nature! Stoker Hills Hiking Trail off Highway 6 Many, Louisiana Sabine Parish 1:30 p.m. Contact Linda Rigsby for more information (318-256-6242).

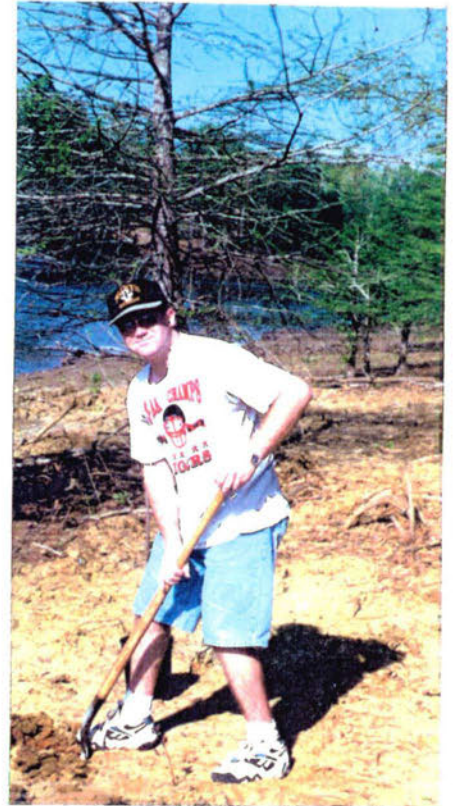
NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE/NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK ACTIVITIES

Page 2

Date	Event/Description
April 22, 23, 24, 1996	Forestry Awareness Week Activities - Three members per day are needed to assist with bagging trees, working at learning stations throughout the forest, and acting as trail guides for groups of school children learning about the forest. Great opportunity to spend a day(s) in the forest! Oakdale, Louisiana 45 minutes south of Alexandria Highway 165 Contact Donna Haydell for more information (318-824-9533).
April 23, 1996	Dedicate a Tree at the Exploration Station - Dedicate a tree at the Exploration Station in Denham Springs in memory of the bombing victims of Oklahoma City. Elementary school students will sing a song in memory of the bombing victims. Outstanding chance to honor the victims of this tragedy! Denham Springs, Louisiana Contact Robin Torrence for more information (504-664-5368)
April 23, 1996	Tree Planting - Grambling State University Plant at least 20 trees on the grounds of Grambling State University. Great chance to benefit the community! Grambling, Louisiana Near Ruston, Louisiana Interstate 20 Contact Tom Morton for more information (318-255-3554)
April 26, 1996	Street Beautification/Clean-Up Project - Street clean-up with tree and flower plantings. Fantastic opportunity to make a difference! Franklin, Louisiana 45 minutes south of Lafayette Highway 90 Contact Delores Druilhet for more information (318-828-7320)
April 28, 1996	Dogwood Trail Hike - Dogwood trail hike with the Youth Council. Great learning experience! Sponsored by the Sabine Soil and Water Conservation District Many, Louisiana Sabine Parish Contact Linda Rigsby for more information (318-256-6242).

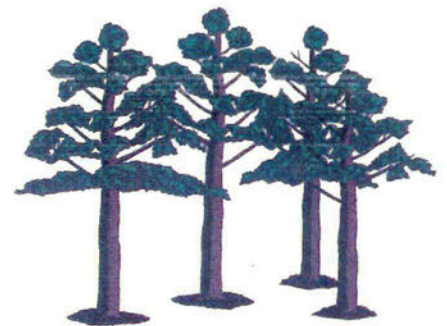
April 23: National Day of Service

In observance of National Day of Service AmeriCorps member, Linda Rigsby, Youth Council members and volunteers plant cypress and green ash trees along the shoreline of Toledo Bend Reservoir. These trees will help prevent erosion and create harmony in the landscape.



Forestry Awareness Week

Oakdale, Louisiana





UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information contact:
Tom Morton PH (318) 255-3554
Fax (318) 251-9199

AmeriCorps members to observe National Day of Service at Grambling State University

On April 23rd six U.S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps members serving North Louisiana will observe a "National Day of Service" at Grambling State University by planting several trees at various locations on the campus.

The National Day of Service is celebrated annually as a day for people across the nation to come together and celebrate the spirit of service. According to Joel Berg, Director of National Service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the theme for the 1996 Day of Service is closely linked to the first anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. "Some of the 168 victims of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City were USDA employees," explained Berg. "We will dedicate this year's 'Day of Service' to the memory of those who lost their lives in the bombing. Let us take this opportunity to remember those who died in that needless tragedy and to demonstrate our national unity."

The trees that will be planted on the Grambling campus were donated by the D'Arbonne Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as Trailblazer RC&D, Inc. The AmeriCorps members who will be participating in the effort are Carl Collins, Mary Huff, Tom Morton, Sandra Smith, Andre Washington, and Ella Watkins. These members work with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Economic and Community Development.

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

The USDA is running 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. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

Trailblazer RC&D, Inc. is a non-profit organization supported by federal, state, and foundation grants. The RC&D program is designed to help volunteers at a local level identify and work toward solving the problems unique to their individual communities. Trailblazer serves an eight parish area in North Central Louisiana. RC&D programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, or handicap/disability. For more information about Trailblazer or its programs, call (318) 255-3554.



AmeriCorps Members at Grambling State University



**Working together
to get things done.....**

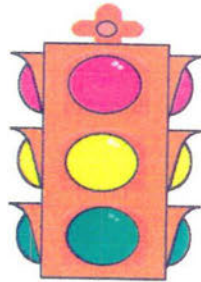


Street Beautification & Clean-Up Project Franklin, Louisiana

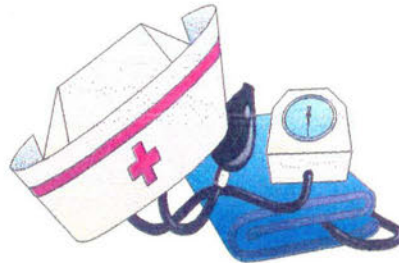


AmeriCorps Members Training Sessions

Defensive Driving

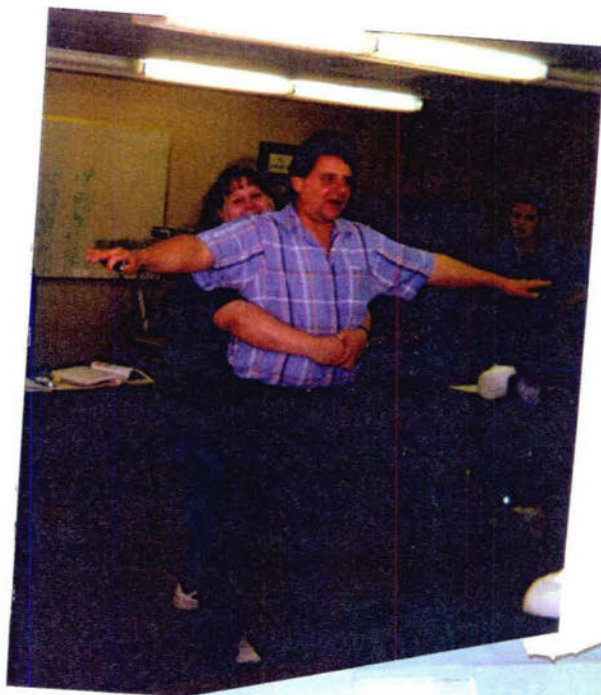


Ethics and
Sexual Harassment



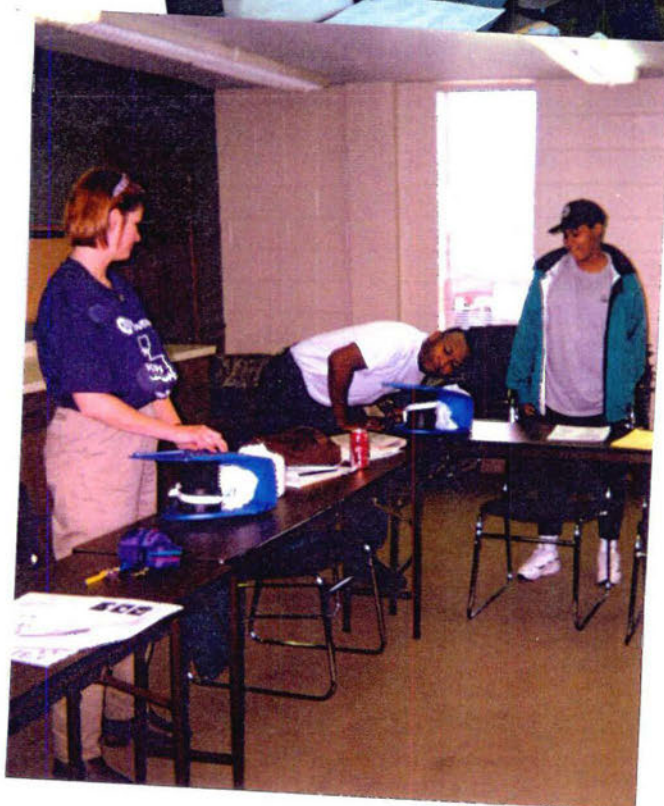
CPR
and First Aid





CPR Training

Mike Cooley offers instruction in CPR and basic First Aid



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MONTHLY CLUSTER MEETINGS

Lafayette Cluster
Jessica Dean
Delores Druilhet
Irvin J. Fekete
Donna L. Haydel
Rebecca Marcotte
Lisa Shuff
Robert Tonn
Robin L. Torrence

Winnsboro Cluster
Carl O. Collins
Mary Huff
Kimberly Kitterlin
Sheila Lyons
Susan D. Mattox
Tom Y. Morton
John Tom Murray
Sandra M. Smith
Ella Watkins

Natchitoches Cluster
Nancy L. Dyer
Demetris Howard
Linda Rigsby
Theresa Smith
Andre Washington



AmeriCorps volunteers help Habitat for Humanity

By Elizabeth P. Zach
Staff reporter

Susan Mattox wore her navy T-Shirt proudly Friday. Emblazoned across her front, it read, "Getting Things Done."

And such was the motto of the AmeriCorps volunteers as they became partners for a day with Habitat for Humanity, an ecumenical, non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of poverty housing.

"I'm proud to be here, even in the heat," said Ms. Mattox, who works in Monroe as a natural resources conservation educator, as she took a break from painting the outside of a house on 136 Kathryn Street.

Nearly 20 AmeriCorps volunteers like Ms. Mattox from around the state gathered in Alexandria for the monthly cluster meeting and to work on a Rapides Habitat for Humanity work site for an afternoon.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program that currently has 20,000 Americans working in underserved rural and urban areas.

In return, the volunteers receive an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans.

"I joined because my mom works for the government and she told me about AmeriCorps and said I would be good at it," said Jessica Dean, 18, an AmeriCorps volunteer who organized Friday's project with Habitat and who works in

Lafayette.

Ms. Dean started organizing the project two weeks ago. Mark Carrol, Executive Director of Rapides Habitat for Humanity, found the house on Kathryn Street suitable for the group's interest.

"We made

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

July 19, 1996

something done."

The AmeriCorps volunteers started scraping the outside of the house about 11 a.m. They then put on a single coat of a grayish blue paint.

Rachel Rivers and her son Larry, who live in the house, remained indoors, occasionally peering out to see how the work was coming along.

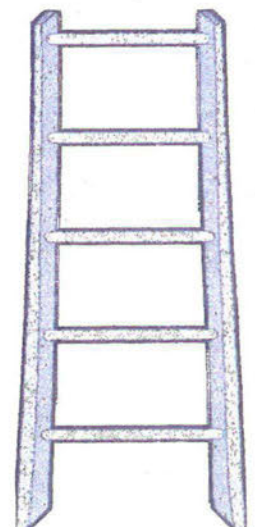
Habitat owns the house and rents it to Ms. Rivers and her husband, but the goal is to get the family to own their home.

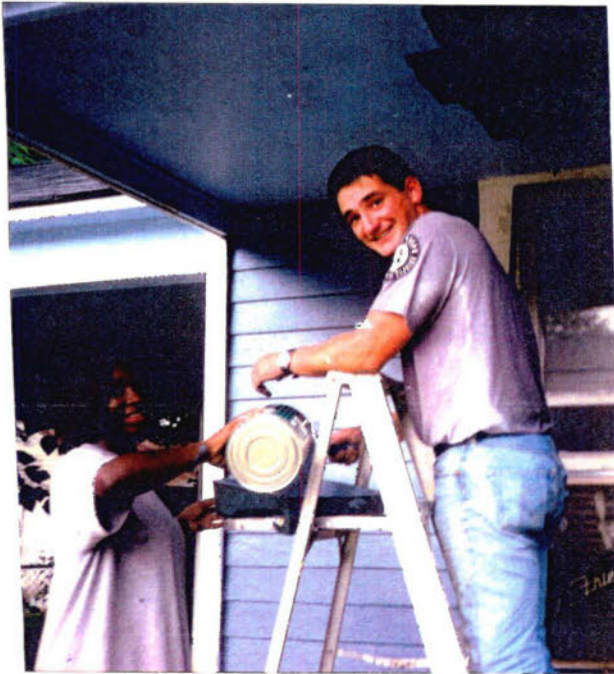
"The tenants are required to attend a series of meetings where they learn about budget management, home and community safety, home maintenance and upkeep and credit," said Carroll.

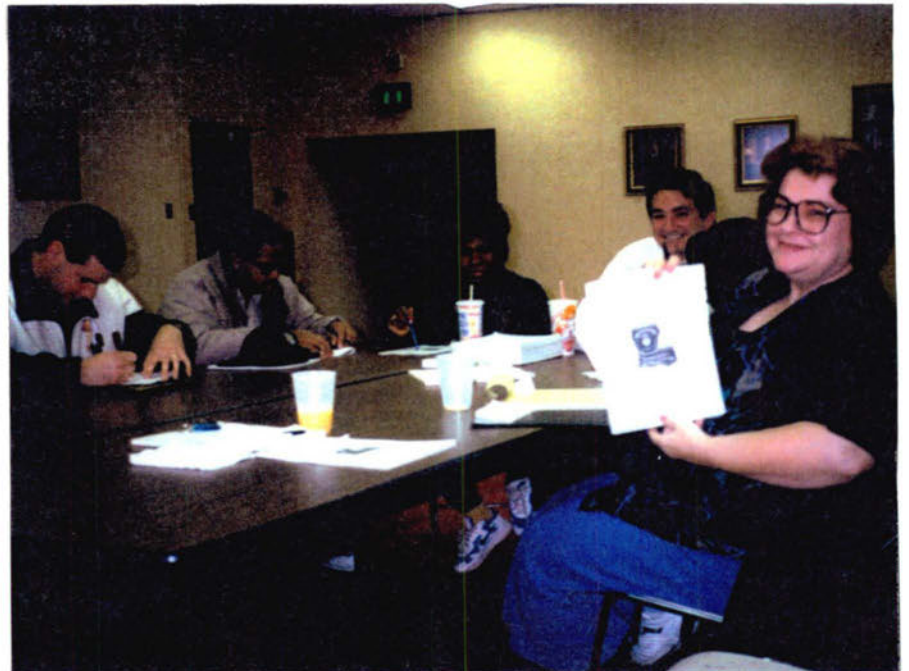
Rapides Habitat has built 25 houses since its inception and has built six houses since January.

Approximately 75 people in Rapides Parish have been housed as a result of the work of those volunteering with the organization.











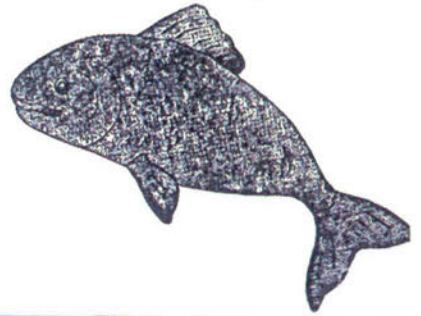
KEEP THE OUACHITA

RIVER CLEAN

Aqua-Bash

Friday June 28th

Grab a Bag and Help Clean up
the Beach!!!



SMILE!
YOUR
ON
CANDID
CAMERA!





WHY ME?



HOW SWEET IT IS



I AIN'T NO ROCKET SCIENTIST



TIME TO PIG-OUT!

THIS IS THE GOOD LIFE!



NO TIME TO PLAY







AWARDS



**USDA AmeriCorps
State of the Year:
*Louisiana, NRCS and RECD***

**USDA AmeriCorps Project
Manager of the Year:
*Gary Fine, Louisiana, NRCS***

SCRAPBOOK COMMITTEE

*Linda Rigsby
Donna Haydel
Nancy Dye
Maely Huff*



USDA AmeriCorps Oklahoma Project

"Windbreak Restoration In Western Oklahoma"

*****Included*****

PLAN OF WORK

TRAINING PLAN

PROJECT INFORMATION

USDA AmeriCorps Oklahoma Project

"Windbreak Restoration In Western Oklahoma"

***PLAN OF WORK
1994-1995***

Introduction to the Project

Project: Windbreak Restoration in western Oklahoma

Location: Twenty-three County area in western Oklahoma

(Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Cimarron, Comanche, Cotton, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Greer, Harmon, Harper, Jackson, Kiowa, Major, Roger Mills, Texas, Tillman, Washita, Woods, and Woodward Counties.)

Socioeconomic and Environmental Factors:

The 23 county region has a population of over 350,000 (11% of state population) according to the 1990 Census. The area is rural with an economy based on agriculture. Towns normally have a population of less than 1,000. The per capita income is \$9,676 (which is below the state average of \$11,893) and 17% of the population lives below the poverty level. The unemployment rate is approximately 6%. The unemployment rate would be higher, but most young people are leaving the rural communities in search of jobs in urban areas. The rural population has a majority of senior citizens since young people have few opportunities.

Needs:

Following the "Dust Bowl" of the 1930's, conservationists through the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Soil Erosion Service began planting the bare land with trees forming miles of living windbreaks. These windbreaks have provided protection for the soils from the constant blowing wind in western Oklahoma, acted as snowfences along some highways, provided habitat diversity for wildlife, protected crops, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation of streams and have added beauty to the landscape.

Thousands of miles of windbreaks have been planted in western Oklahoma. Unfortunately, many of the windbreaks have reached maturity and are dying. Disease and weather have also taken their toll on these windbreaks. The oldest living windbreak in America is in Greer County; it is slowly deteriorating and is in need of restoration.

If these windbreaks are not renovated, these trees will deteriorate and eventually will have to be removed, thus leaving the land unprotected once again.

Weekly Schedule to Implement Plan of Work

Action Items	Who
1. Contact project offices for team progress or needs.	Project Director
2. Project office supervisor and team leader will develop schedule of work (Friday before the next week.)	SCS Supervisor
3. Training Plan and Plan of Work will be reviewed to insure timeliness.	SCS Supervisor
4. Check of equipment, supplies, and replacement needs will be made each Friday before next week of work.	SCS Supervisor Corps Team Leader
5. Daily hours of work will be posted and activities summarized and reviewed.	SCS Supervisor Corps Team Members
6. Pictures and information of AmeriCorps Team progress will be documented daily.	SCS Supervisor

Plan of Work

Objectives:

1. Protect the Great Plains ecosystem by restoring 30 windbreaks and planting 5000 trees and/or shrubs that reduce soil erosion and enhance wildlife according to an approved conservation and forestry plan.
2. Increase public awareness in the 23 western counties about the value of windbreaks and the need for long-term maintenance by encouraging 1000 people to participate by surveying support of the AmeriCorps Teams efforts and encouraging media coverage.
3. Increase public awareness of local, state, and federal agencies availability for resource problems through the development and implementation of informational materials and activities in 23 western counties.

Objective 1

Protect the Great Plains ecosystem by restoring 30 windbreaks and planting 5000 trees and/or shrubs that reduce soil erosion and enhance wildlife according to an approved conservation and forestry plan.

Summary of Objective 1

1. The work to be done is restoring windbreaks and planting trees and/or shrubs.
2. The results to be achieved is 30 windbreaks restored and 5000 trees and/or shrubs planted.
3. The measure of quality is reduced soil erosion and enhance wildlife areas according to an approved conservation and forestry plan.
4. The standard of success is amount of soil erosion reduced before and after in adjoining field and the improvement of the windbreaks for wildlife.
5. The landowner, landuser, community, county, state and adjoining states will benefit from the service.

Objective 1: Protect the Great Plains ecosystem by restoring 30 windbreaks and planting 5000 trees and/or shrubs that reduce soil erosion and enhance wildlife according to an approved conservation and forestry plan.

Goal 1: Emphasize efforts to renovate windbreaks.

Action Items	Who	When	Progress
1. Locate windbreaks on County Maps.	ODA(F) SCS	Sept 1994	
2. Inventory windbreaks and develop list of priority sites.	ODA(F) SCS	Sept 1994	
3. Develop map of priority sites.	ODA(F) SCS	Sept 1994	
4. Field check selected sites for finalized renovation.	ODA(F) SCS Corps Team	Oct 1994	
5. Identify ten sites (nine private/1 public) sites for each Corps Team to renovate. (Prioritize) (Consider distance from project office.)	ODA(F) SCS ODWC	Oct 1994	

Objective 1: Protect the Great Plains ecosystem by restoring 30 windbreaks and planting 5000 trees and/or shrubs that reduce soil erosion and enhance wildlife according to an approved conservation and forestry plan.

Goal 2: Emphasize protection of resources while reducing soil erosion.

Action Items	Who	When	Progress
1. Determine soil loss protection for selected windbreak sites for renovation (before/after.)	SCS	Oct 1994	
2. Develop plans for windbreak restoration on top two sites for each Corps on to work on.	ODA(F) SCS	Oct 1994	
3. Identify windbreaks for emphasis on wildlife enhancement.	ODWC SCS	Oct 1994	
4. Develop wildlife plans for selected windbreaks to be renovated.	ODWC	Oct 1994	

Objective 2

Increase public awareness in the 23 western counties about the value of windbreaks and the need for long-term maintenance by encouraging 1000 people to participate by surveying support of the AmeriCorps Teams efforts and encouraging media coverage.

Summary of Objective 2

1. The work to be done is increase public awareness in the 23 western counties.
2. The result to be achieved is support and participation of the public for AmeriCorps and the Corps Teams in all 23 counties.
3. The measure of quality will be participation levels, number of surveys completed, and effectiveness of media coverage.
4. The standard of success will be achieved with 1000 people participating, 70% positive responses to the survey and coverage by several media types.
5. All persons within the 23 western counties will benefit from this service as will the state of Oklahoma.

Objective 2: Increase public awareness in the 23 western counties about the value of windbreaks and the need for long-term maintenance by encouraging 1000 people to participate by surveying support of the AmeriCorps teams efforts and encouraging media coverage.

Goal 1: Encourage participation of the public.

Action Items	Who	When	Progress
1. Kick off Oklahoma's AmeriCorps Project at Oldest Windbreak, (Greer County.)	All Participants Agencies and Others	Oct 21, 1994	
2. Recruit volunteers to mentor and assist Corps Teams.	SCS	Oct 1994	
3. Develop CCC Alumni assistance for each Corps Team.	SCS CCC Alumni (J. Gordon)	Sept 1994	
4. Conduct two field tours of windbreak restoration.	SCS Others	Dec 1994 Apr 1995	
5. Conduct one "get to know" day for each AmeriCorps Team and local community. (3)	SCS Others	Nov 1994 Jan 1995	
6. Conduct two surveys to determine public support and participation of AmeriCorps and Corps teams.	SCS Others	Jan 1995 May 1995	
7. Review media coverage four times during the year to insure public is informed.	SCS Others	Oct 1994 Dec 1994 Mar 1995 May 1995	

Objective 2: Increase public awareness in the 23 western counties about the value of windbreaks and the need for long-term maintenance by encouraging 1000 people to participate by surveying support of the AmeriCorps teams efforts and encouraging media coverage.

Goal 2: Create a positive experience for youth participants (Corps Teams.)

Action Items	Who	When	Progress
1. Develop training schedule for AmeriCorps Teams.	SCS Others	Aug 1994	
2. Identify team leaders from Corps Team to aid youth in adaptation to work environment.	SCS Others	Oct 1994	
3. Develop mentor list from local people for each Corps Team.	SCS Others	Nov 1994	
4. One day each month set aside for youth to gain self development (mentors.)	SCS Others	Sep 1994- Jun 1995	
5. Set up with team leaders, outside guests for Career Day Program	SCS Others	Jan 1995	
6. Meet with Corps Teams monthly to check individual progress, teamwork, and needs.	SCS	Sep 1994- Jun 1995	
7. Weekly follow-up with project offices for team needs.	SCS	Sep 1994- Jun 1995	

Objective 3

Increase public awareness of local, state, and federal agencies availability for resource problems through the development and implementation of informational materials and activities in 23 western counties.

Summary of Objective 3

1. The work to be done is to develop and implement informational materials and activities that shows agency efforts in windbreak restoration and resource protection.
2. The result to be achieved is increased requests for information and/or assistance to participating agencies in AmeriCorps.
3. The measure of quality will be positive requests that lead to increased assistance to the 23 western counties related to windbreaks, forestry, wildlife or other natural resource conservation needs.
4. The standard of success will be if 50% of the 23 counties receive an increase in requests and a 10% increase in program participation concerning windbreak restoration.
5. People in the 23 western counties will benefit from this service.

Objective 3: Increase public awareness of local, state, and federal agencies availability for resource problems through the development and implementation of informational materials and activities in 23 western counties.

Goal 1: Keep public informed of AmeriCorps activities.

Action Items	Who	When	Progress
1. Develop informational materials for distribution. (three press releases, two fact sheets, and two interviews.)	SCS	Aug 1994	
2. Contact television stations, radio stations, and newspapers at local and state levels.	SCS Others	Aug 1994 Sep 1994 Oct 1994	
3. Develop organizational chart of SCS/AmeriCorps Teams for public use.	SCS	Aug 1994	
4. Develop one slide program and one video program for statewide use of AmeriCorps in Oklahoma and participating agencies.	SCS	Jan 1995	
5. Develop brochure of AmeriCorps Oklahoma Project Activities and participating agencies.	SCS	Mar 1995	
6. Develop an evaluation questionnaire for the public, AmeriCorps Team, and others of the project's success or improvements.	SCS	May 1995	
7. Project year end celebration with all Corps Teams, agencies, and others.	SCS Others	June 1995	

USDA AmeriCorps Oklahoma Project

"Windbreak Restoration In Western Oklahoma"

***TRAINING PLAN
1994-1995***

Objective:

To provide encouragement, opportunity, and quality training for an incentive to youth in continuing their education while they provide a service that benefits our environment.

AmeriCorps Teams

- Corps Team 1 - Project Office, Woodward, Ok
- Corps Team 2 - Project Office, Sentinel, Ok
- Corps Team 3 - Project Office, Mangum, Ok

[illegible]

Reference to Trainers

SCS	-	Soil Conservation Service
ODA(F)	-	Oklahoma Department of Agriculture (Forestry Services)
ODWC	-	Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Vo-Tech	-	Vocational Technical Centers
Others	-	Conservation Districts
		American Red Cross
		Alumni CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps)
		OSU Cooperative Extension Service
		Oklahoma Conservation Commission
		Resource Conservation and Development Councils
		Volunteers (groups, individuals, others)

USDA AmeriCorps Oklahoma Project

"Windbreak Restoration In Western Oklahoma"

***PROJECT INFORMATION
1994-1995***

AMERICORPS/USDA
OKLAHOMA RECRUITMENT PLAN OUTLINE

Tuesday, July 5: Meet with Oklahoma Conservation Commission and Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts on AmeriCorps Project strategy.

By Friday, July 8: Send press release to all area media outlets announcing project and recruitment procedures.

By Friday, July 15: Hold meetings with key local and state agencies on recruitment procedures.

By Friday, July 15: Have all posters displayed in key positions by local district conservationists.

By Wednesday, July 20: Have brochures available to all recruitment contacts.

By Friday, July 22: Have local district conservationists contact all local organizations.

By Monday, August 1: Obtain lists of local residents interested in program who have called into the USDA and the Corporation for National and Community Service 800 lines.

By Friday, August 5: Last day to receive applications. Select finalists for interviews.

By Monday, August 8: Bring xerox copies of all finalists' applications to USDA AmeriCorps staff training in Washington, D.C.

By Friday, August 19: Obtain approval of finalist list from national office.

Tuesday, August 23: Begin interviewing finalists.

By Tuesday, August 30: Send list of final selections to national office for approval.

Wednesday, August 31: Selections are finalized; local office calls all of those selected and as many of those not selected as possible; national office sends letters from Secretary Espy to all of those who were and were not selected.

Preliminary Timeline

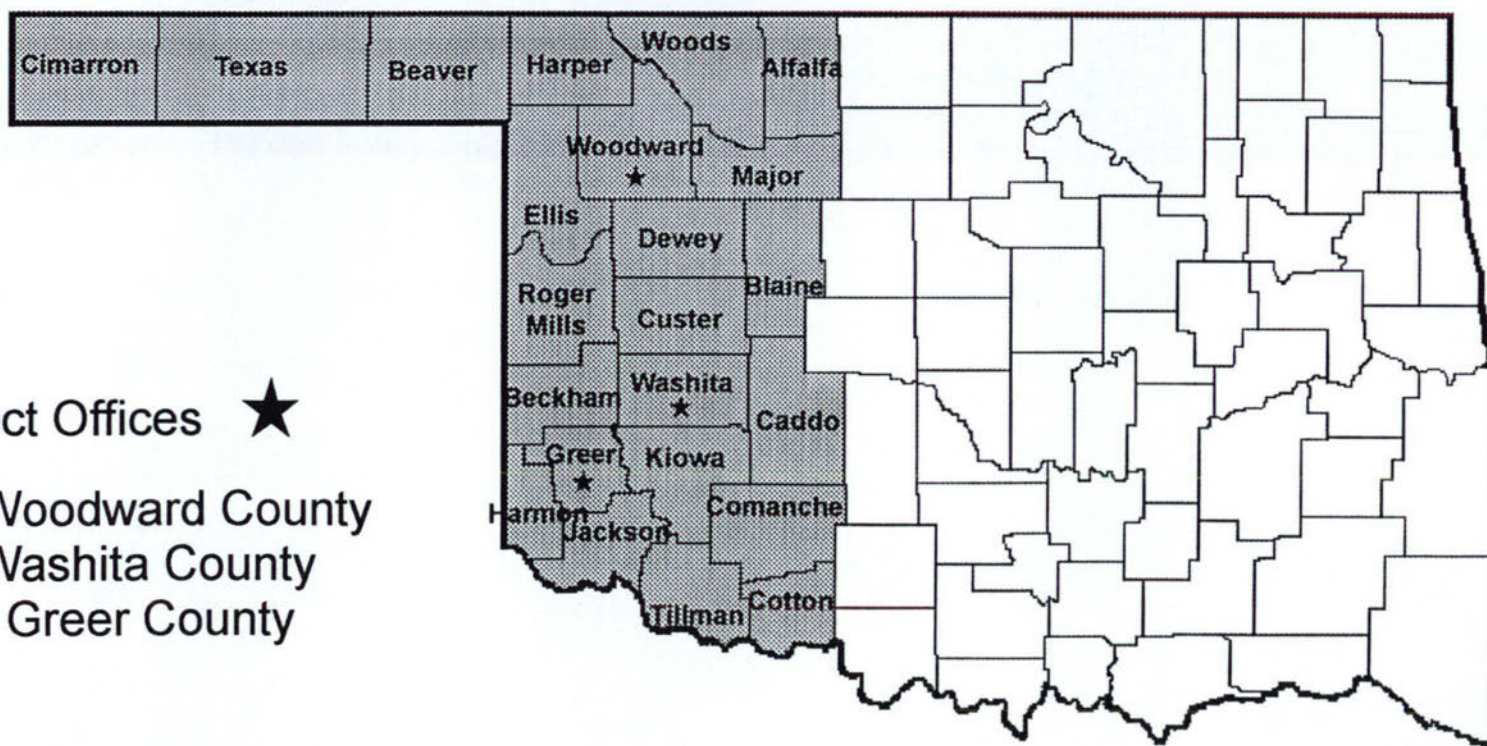
Date	Component/Person Responsible
July 18/19	News Release to Field Offices - Amy Sanders
July 22	Customized New Releases to Local Media - District Conservationists
July 25 - a.m.	Meeting in Burns Flat with LeRoy Tull, Mark Rose, George Moreland, Jack Jones, Bill Puckett, and Angela Williams
July 25 - p.m.	Finalize Equipment List - Karen Branson, Tom Murray, and LeRoy Tull
July 26	LeRoy Tull at Burns Flat Office - LeRoy Tull, and Karen Branson
July 29 (or sooner)	1-2 Landowner Contracts to Tom Murray Area Conservationists will contact District Conservationist for lists. Ultimate list should have approximately 10 participants per area.
August 1 (tentative)	Signing of AmeriCorps agreement between Oklahoma Conservation Commission - Mason Mungle, SCS - Jack Jones, and Oklahoma Department of Agriculture - Gary Sherrar
August 8	Applications to Washington, D.C. - Bill Puckett, LeRoy Tull
August 19	Deadline for Participant Applications (Extended from August 5.) - Applicants/Recruiters
August 22	Review Participant and Site Applications Transportation/Logistics and Work Plan Planning Group
August 23-30	Contact and Interview Candidates
August 31	Participants Selected/Contacted
Mid-September/October 1	Begin Training?
October 21	Kickoff Ceremony - Details to follow

Work to be Accomplished

	SCS	ODA(F)	ODWC	OTHER
Landowner Participation: Signup landowners to participate in windbreak project.	X	X		X
Public Information: News releases and promotions about windbreak project.	X	X	X	X
Participate Training: All aspects of training for the participates to perform their duties and enrich their experiences. Includes equipment.	X	X	X	X
Transportation: Transportation of participates to and from job sites on a daily basis.	X			
Landowner Plan: Plan and design of windbreaks to control erosion, improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, provide crop and livestock protection and improve beauty of landscape. Selection of proper tree and shrub species.	X	X	X	
Renovation and Planting: Widening, partial replanting, removing, and replacing selected trees and shrubs to improve an existing windbreak.	X	X	X	
Trees and Shrubs Supply and coordinate trees and shrubs to landowners as needed.		X	X	X

SCS - Soil Conservation Service
 ODA(F) - Oklahoma Department of Agriculture (Forestry Services)
 ODWC - Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
 OTH - Others units of local government, civic clubs, conservation districts, vo-techs, RC&D Councils, and groups.

SCS AmeriCorps Oklahoma Service Project Windbreak Restoration



★ Project Offices ★

Woodward, Woodward County
Sentinel, Washita County
Mangum, Greer County



Soil Conservation Service
Stillwater, Oklahoma

ROGUE RIVER AMERICORPS

*"Getting things done" in
Southern Oregon.*



Edward Mather, 20, former welfare recipient, takes pride in a native material footbridge constructed by him and other AmeriCorps Members for the community of Jacksonville, Oregon.



Jacksonville, Oregon

USDA Forest Service

35 Dedicated Members



AmeriCorps Members spent a total of 8 weeks in the timber community of Butte Falls, Oregon, completing much needed renovations. Projects included an addition to the Fire House, constructing a storage facility and installing railings and new soffets for the library. Members also built a new awning and ceiling for the Community Hall, and completed numerous upgrades to the Town Park and public facilities.



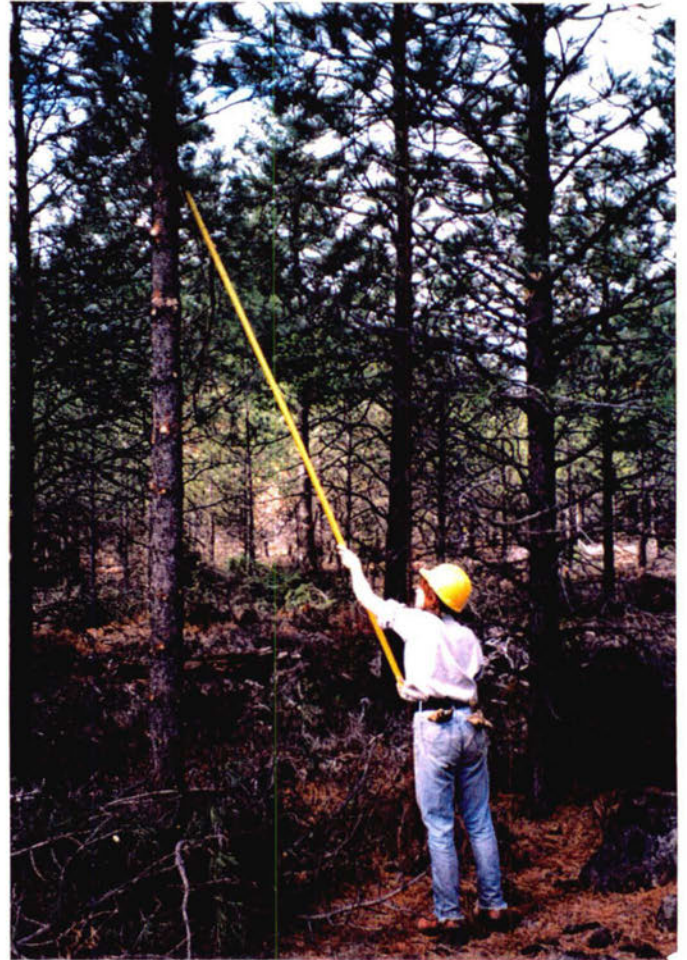


BRIDGE BUILDING: Members have developed highly technical skills over the course of the program and are able to construct bridges, turnpikes and other structures that will make national trails safer for the public. Many of the additions will be utilized for more than 50 years.

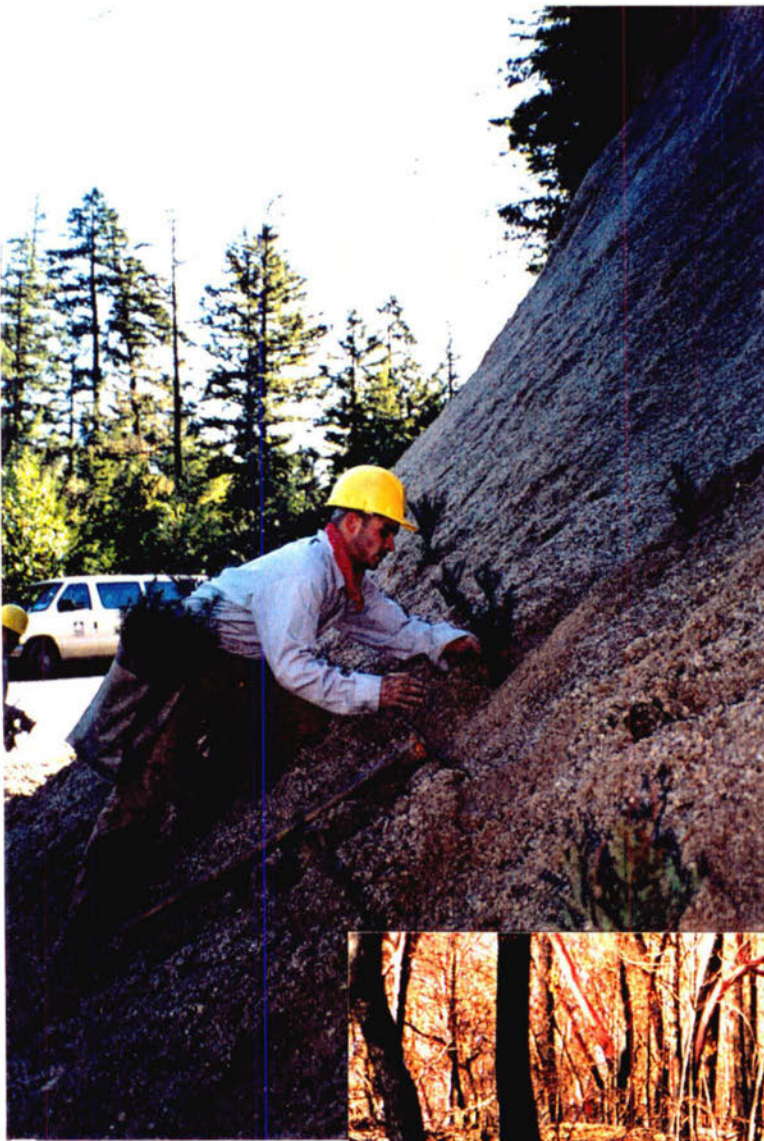




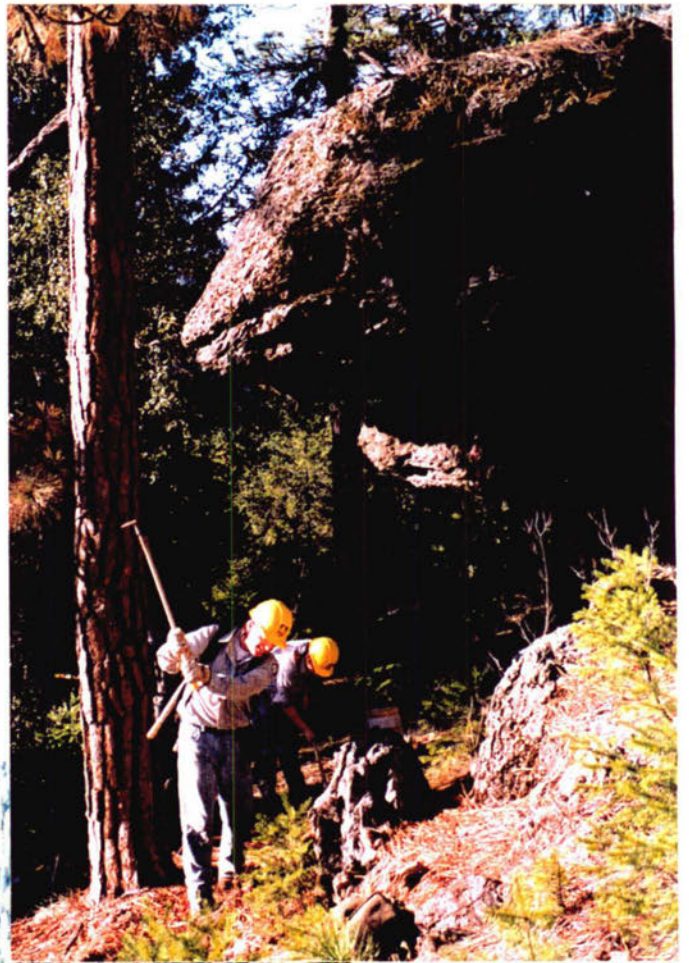
TEAMWORK GETS THINGS DONE! Ryan and the "Trailanators" working with the ever popular manzanita branches for fish habitat improvement on the Applegate Lake.



HIGH REACH PRUNING: Crews demonstrate how to improve timber quality by cutting limbs 17 feet on over 500 acres of National Forest land.



AmeriCorps Members help rehabilitate the devastation caused by the Hull Mountain Fire in 1994. There has been excess soil erosion due to the lack of vegetation in the area. In one week, crews built 36 silt trap dams and planted hundreds of willows to help curb erosion and restore the area to its natural state.



Trail maintenance and reconstruction comprises a large portion of Rogue River AmeriCorps' program of work. To date, Members have maintained and reconstructed over 150 miles of trails, improving accessibility for visitors to the National Forest.



AmeriCorps crew learns how to produce authentic shakes used to restore buildings constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.



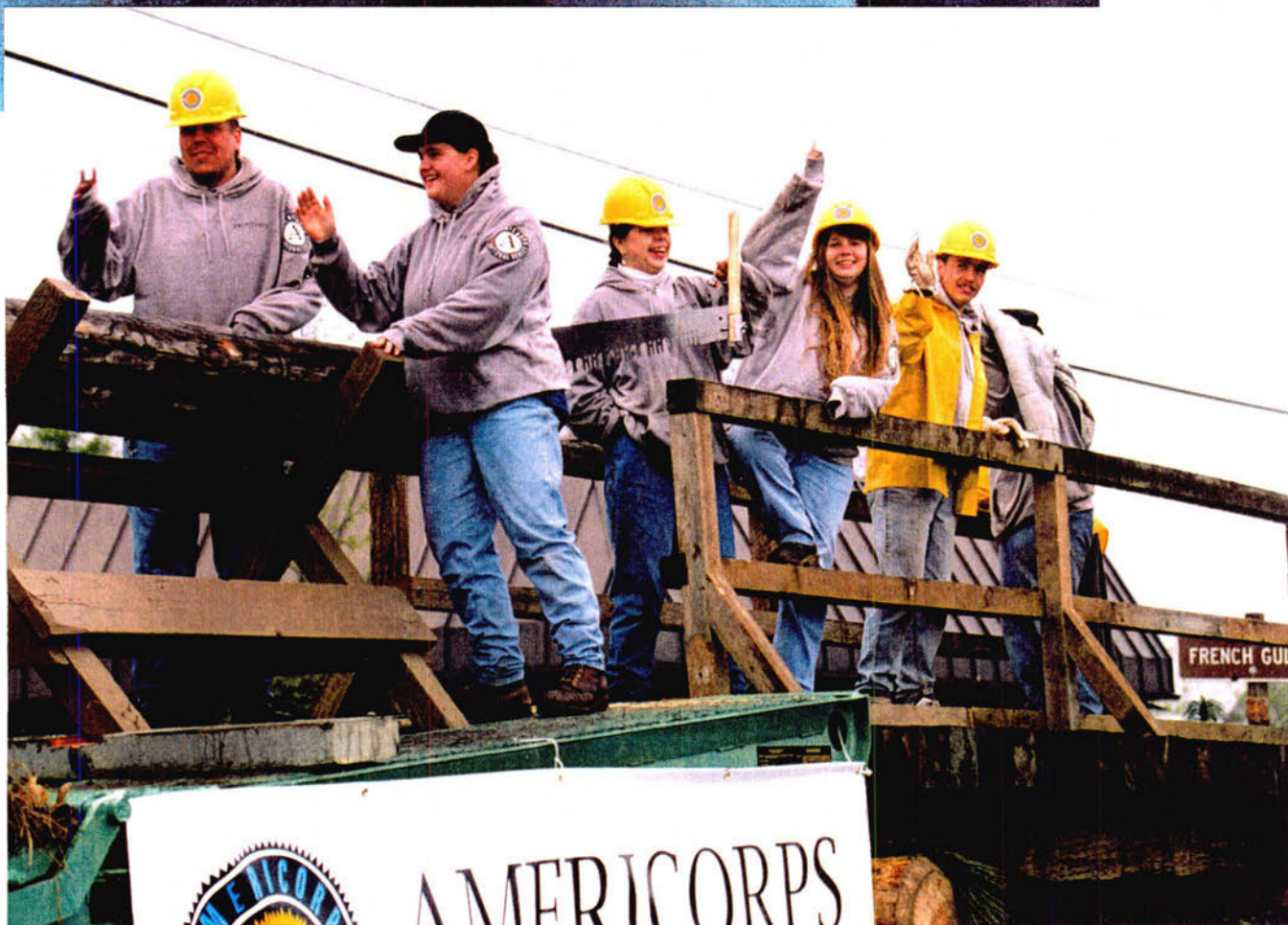
AmeriCorps Members learn tedious masonry skills that replicate work performed in the 1930's by CCC crews. New rock walls will replace many of the original walls constructed by CCC crews.



"Mr. AmeriCorps", Joel Berg, braves the deep and icy snow as he shows crewleader Tom how to prune the DC way!



Filming a spot for "Good Morning, America!"



PEAR BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: The high point of the Spring season in southern Oregon, Members took First Place in the local parade constructing the winning float in only 5 days!



"Jacksonville nestled in the Woodlands"

Jacksonville Woodlands Association

P.O. Box 1210

Jacksonville, OR 97530

May 12, 1995

Americorp,
c/o Mindy Martin
6941 Upper Applegate Road
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Gentlemen,

We of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association would like to thank all members of the Americorp who participated in the building of the bridge across Jackson Creek.

As you may know, the Jacksonville Woodlands Association is dedicated to the purchase of land around the historic town of Jacksonville, Oregon and to the installation of trails around the town. 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. We have received many positive comments on the bridge. One excited child told his teacher, "I've crossed it three times already."

In the 1930s' President Roosevelt's Conservation Corps build many trails and bridges which we all enjoy today. I am sure that your children and grandchildren, and everyone else's grandchildren in the area, will enjoy the effort and skill which you have rendered to this community.

Once again, I thank you all, and President Clinton, for making this lovely crossing possible for us. I wish each of you the best of success in your personal endeavors.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Horobin
P.O. Box 484
Jacksonville, OR 97530

cc: President Bill Clinton
Congressmen Newt Gingrich



Ashland Fire Department

455 SISKIYOU BOULEVARD
ASHLAND, OREGON
97520



(503) 482-2770

FAX (503) 488-5318

June 21, 1995

Mr. Bill Fleeger
Rogue River National Forest
Applegate Ranger District
6941 Upper Applegate Road
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Dear Bill,

On behalf of the City Of Ashland, I want to extend our appreciation to the AmeriCorps members for their excellent work on the Ashland Loop Road wildfire fuels reduction project. We were very impressed with the quality of their work, and especially, their commitment to the project under much less than ideal circumstances from a topography and fuel-load standpoint. AmeriCorp should draw immense satisfaction from the knowledge that they have greatly reduced the wildfire threat to homes adjacent to the project forest land.

We were fortunate to have had the opportunity to engage in a cooperative project with such a fine group of individuals. Their work on this project has helped us gain a foothold in our efforts to treat wildfire fuels on over 1,000 acres of city owned forest land. In my conversations with neighborhood residents, I received numerous compliments regarding the transformation of a dead, diseased and dying stand of timber into a potentially healthy ecosystem. They recognized the hard work of the Americorps members, as they watched them handpile slash and rearrange heavy logs across the parcel. We are grateful for your interest in our efforts to better protect our community, and its resources, from the threat of wildfire.

Sincerely,

Keith E. Woodley

Keith E. Woodley
Fire Chief

Monday

June 26, 1995

Ashland Tidings -

AmeriCorps forest project shows what can be done

At the top of Morton Street in Ashland is a unique neighborhood of big beautiful homes with grand views, where residents can relax on their decks and watch the shadows play on the eastern hillsides and follow the spring squalls as they sweep through the valley. It's also one of Ashland's neighborhoods in the forest interface – known for both its beauty and potential fire danger. Last week a crew of young people in the AmeriCorps program braved wet, steep slopes and wrestled with downed logs, dying trees and poison oak to help make this area less of a fire danger.

The city of Ashland owns about 1,000 acres of undeveloped land, so the four acres of city land cleaned up by the Forest Service and AmeriCorps crew will not have a major impact on our city's vulnerability to fire. But the clean-up does illustrate the value of this national service program. AmeriCorps/USDA has three broad programs: Empowerment and Anti-Hunger, Rural Development, and Public Land and Environment. The work done in the Ashland watershed was part of the latter program, and the work is dispatched out of the Applegate Ranger District. Members of this hard-working and enthusiastic team live at the Star Gulch facility and are paid the equivalent of about \$1,200 a month for living expenses and tuition credits. In addition to watershed work, the crews protect wetlands, restore recreation areas, increase handicap accessibility, and much more.

The AmeriCorps program has been criticized by Rep. Newt Gingrich and others as being too expensive, but important work is being done and the long-range benefits are great in learned job skills and educational incentives. Investments in education pay big dividends, as we have witnessed with the GI Bill.

The local project also serves as an example of what can be done to reduce fire danger even on steep slopes with decades of accumulation of dead fuel. The slash was piled up and covered with tarps for burning next fall, and enough dead and dying trees were hauled out of the area to generate \$2,000 for the city's forest land clean-up fund.

So private forest land owners take note. Even difficult property can be managed to reduce the danger of forest fires. You won't be able to get an AmeriCorp team for private projects, but a lot of good ideas and direction are available through the Ashland Fire Department and the local Forest Service ranger station.

TJT

Ashland Tidings
June 15, 1995

Lo

Cleaning up



Ashland Daily Tidings/Pamela Lyons

Coy Wiss of Applegate chops up slash on city-owned land off upper Morton Street Wednesday as part of the the Rogue River AmeriCorps program. This week and early next week, AmeriCorps workers are putting the finishing touches on the forest clean-up project that resulted in one truckload of dead and dying

trees being cleared from the land. Those trees will be sold to Boise Cascade Corp., said Ashland Fire Chief Keith Woodley, putting up to \$2,000 back into the city's forest land clean-up fund. Nine AmeriCorps workers are piling leftover branches and brush for burning later; the project will be completed Tuesday.

AmeriCorps no boondoggle in Butte Falls

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

BUTTE FALLS — Risa Huetter has a challenge for those in Congress contemplating cutting the budget for AmeriCorps.

"They should come out and work with us and see how hard we work," said the AmeriCorps member. "If they think what we're doing is stupid, then they don't know what's going on."

Congressional leaders, vowing to reduce federal spending, have questioned the merits of the \$580 million in funding for the 20,000-member national service corps. President Clinton, who touted the program in his state-of-the-union address last month, wants to expand the program.

Under the program, participants receive \$7,660 in living allowance during their 10-month tour, and a \$4,725 educational voucher to be used for college or trade-school tuition.

Since joining AmeriCorps last fall, Huetter, 19, of Ashland, and the other members based at the Rogue River National Forest have been cutting trails, planting trees, building erosion control projects, cleaning up after forest fires and working on various construction projects.

In the local community hall, built 40 years ago, AmeriCorps members are restoring the interior and adding a long awning over the entrance.

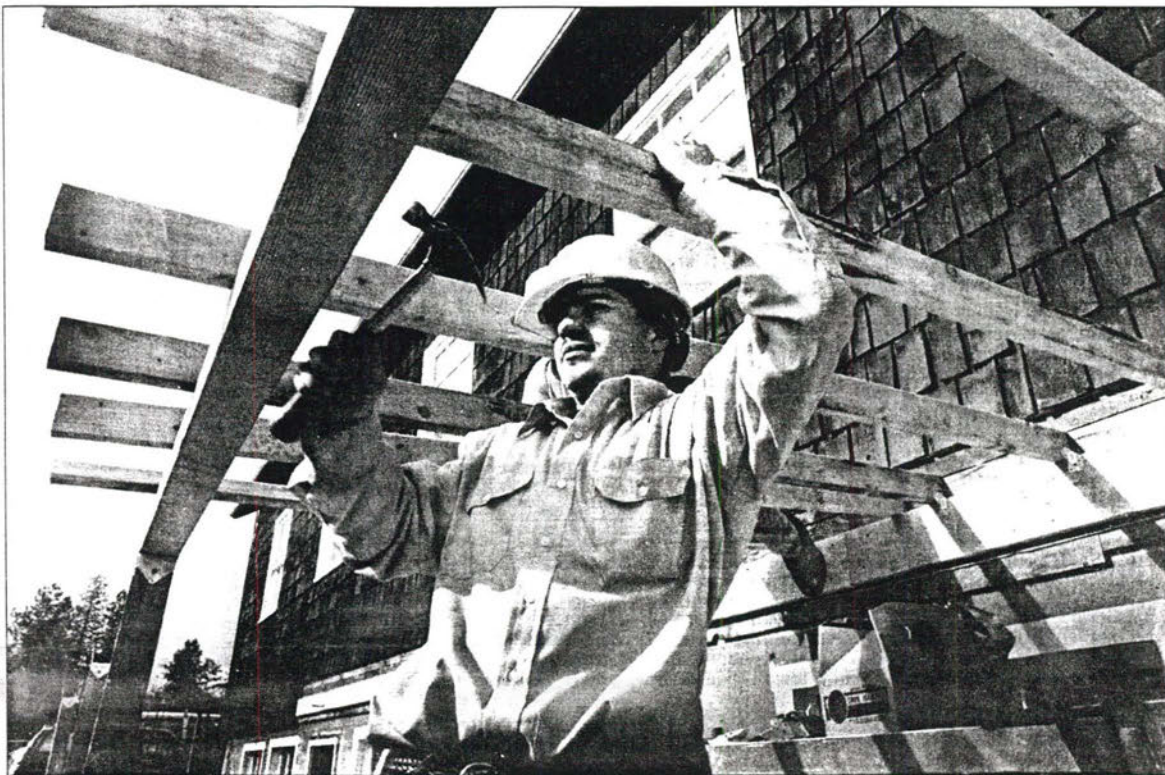
Over at the county branch library building, they have started building a storage shed. Plans also call for building an extension on the local fire hall. And they are rehabilitating restrooms in the nearby park.

Those projects are being financed by a \$100,000 grant received by Butte Falls through the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative for timber-dependent communities. Prospect has received a similar grant.

Huetter, who was working on a ranch in Colorado before joining AmeriCorps, says the program allows young people to learn work skills and earn money for education.

"I've learned a lot of patience," she said, noting she intends to go to college upon completing the program. "I plan to go into architecture. I like doing construction. It's great to learn how things are put together."

Volunteer supervisor Bill Tucker, 65, former town marshal of Butte Falls, likes



Mail Tribune / Steve Johnson

Cisco Villastrivo, 19, works on the Butte Falls community center in an AmeriCorps project.

the way the program has come together.

"We're getting repairs that have been badly needed for years," Tucker said. "I honestly believe it's as good a program as you're going to get to help a community like this. There is no other way I can think of that this kind of work would get done."

"And they are great workers," he added. "As soon as they know what you want, they get right to it."

Tim Dodge, 21, of Cottage Grove, spent three years studying environmental science at Oregon State University before joining AmeriCorps.

"Probably one of the toughest things to do nowadays is to get a job straight out of

college," he said. "I wanted to get some work experience before completing my degree."

Dodge also wants doubters to visit an AmeriCorps work site.

"The best way to know what's going on is to get out here," he said. "It's hard to put down on paper what we're getting from this program. We're earning what we're getting."

Cisco Villastrivo, 19, of Woodburn, agreed.

"It keeps me out of trouble," he said of the program. "And I'm learning new stuff all the time."

Before joining AmeriCorps, he worked

in a glass factory.

"I want to go back to school," he said. "The only reason I'm not going to school now was that I didn't have the money. This program is really helping me out."

Laurel Alexanian, 20, of Spokane, who was painting a room inside the hall, was working in fast-food restaurants six months ago.

"I wanted to do something that had more of a purpose," she said, adding that she is interested in pursuing a career in wildlife biology or conservation.

"I like learning the different types of work," she said, adding, "It'll look good on my resume, too."

bought
death

apparently had been ar-
they reached the Valley
the most ones to reach the

Neighbors oppose youth center site

By GORDON GREGORY
of the Mail Tribune

ASHLAND — The last thing Steve Groveman wanted was a group of concerned citizens protest-

Ashland council will consider location

find private land and buy it," he told the group, and then solicited their help in finding a suitable location

sion voted 3-2 recently to recom-
mend providing a section of city
land incorporated into Garfield

could be explored.

Those attending the meeting offered a number of possible alternative sites.

Linda Redding, who lives near

Mail Tribune

Serving Southern Oregon & Northern California

Applegate release boosted

Water will cover some bridges by this afternoon

By BILL KETTLER
of the Mail Tribune

A rainstorm expected tonight could swell Rogue Valley rivers and streams, but forecasters said they expected less rain than the deluge earlier this week.

Several days of heavy rains prompted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release extra water from Applegate Lake today, as residents of the Rogue and Applegate valleys braced for more wet weather.

"I don't think we're going to have anything like the rain we had Monday," said David Spector, of the National Weather Service.

Since Sunday, a total of 1.26 inches of rain has been recorded at the Medford-Jackson County Airport, and a total of 4.42 inches in Grants Pass, according to the Weather Service.

Spector said several storms are expected to pass through the region by the weekend, bringing

Disasters drain Red Cross

Fire and flood emergencies are exhausting resources at the local American Red Cross chapter.

In addition to opening two evacuation shelters in Josephine County for flood victims this week, the organization has provided shelter, food, clothing and emergency medical assistance to six local families who have lost their homes to fires in the past 30 days, officials report.

Two local Red Cross volunteers were to leave late this

morning for the San Francisco area in an emergency resource vehicle to help flood victims in northern California, drawing further from local resources.

Contributions are urgently needed to help cover expenses, said Liz Knips, health director for the local chapter.

Contributors should make checks out to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund and send to the American Red Cross Rogue Valley Chapter, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR 97504.

For more information, call 779-3773.

snow to the mountains above 5,000 feet.

Releasing water now from Applegate Lake will allow the dam to continue to control potential flooding during the rest of the winter, said Ken Olson, project manager for the Corps' Lost Creek and Applegate dams.

Olson said flows in the Applegate River would rise to about 3,000 cubic feet per second by this

afternoon, covering some low-water bridges. He said water released from the dam may bring the Applegate near the top of its banks, but should not cause any flooding.

"We will not cause the river to get bigger than bank-full conditions," Olson said.

Olson said Applegate Dam controls flooding by collecting water

see RELEASE, Page 4A

Release

from Page 1A

during high streamflows and then gradually releasing it. He said flows into Applegate Lake briefly rose to 10,000 cubic feet per second on Monday, while the river flowed at just 1,660 cfs near Wilderville, downstream of the dam.

Olson said future weather will determine how long it will take to draw the lake down to its flood control height of 1,889 feet above sea level. The lake was 24 feet above the desired flood control level on Tuesday.

Releasing extra water at those levels probably will not cause problems for fish, according to Chuck Fustish, a fisheries biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Fustish said eggs of fall chinook salmon are incubating now in gravel along the river bottom. Those eggs could suffer if fine sediments and silt clog the gravel, but that would be unlikely unless streamflows rise to about 8,000 cubic feet per second, he said.

Several residents of the area below Applegate Dam said they preferred the minor inconvenience of high water to a full-blown flood.

"I would have water around this mobile home right now," said Thomas Christie, who lives on Lower Applegate Road. Christie

recalled that high water isolated his mobile home before the dam was built.

"The dam saved me," Christie said.

Olson said streamflow measurements this week showed far greater rainfall in the Applegate basin than the area drained by the upstream tributaries of the Rogue River. Rogue River flows into Lost Creek Lake increased only about 1,000 cfs on Monday, while flows into Applegate Lake were rising by up to 10,000 cfs.

Heavy rains in western Jackson County this week have triggered some erosion problems in the area burned by the Hull Mountain fire last August. A crew from the newly created AmeriCorps national service program has been building erosion control structures in the burned area near Ramsey Road, north of Gold Hill, said Mindy Martin, of the Rogue River National Forest.

"The whole mountain is coming down," said Martin, who visited the 10-person work crew Tuesday.

Martin said the crew has built small "check dams" and other erosion control structures, trying to slow runoff on barren hillsides.

"It's a 10,000-acre mudhole," she said.

Mail Tribune

The Mail Tribune offers its opinion pages to stimulate discussion and understanding of issues important to our community. Editorials in this column reflect the opinions of the Mail Tribune.

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Gregory H. Taylor, Publisher
Wm. H. Manny, Editorial Editor

Robert L. Hunter, Editor
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Editorials

National service

... Newt doesn't like federal
... bureaucrats or volunteers

... *News item:* "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service," Gingrich says. 'It is perced voluntarism ... It's gimmickry.'"

... — Newsweek, Jan. 23 edition

... *News item:* "Heavy rains in western Jackson County this week have triggered some erosion problems. ... A crew from the newly created AmeriCorps national service program has been building erosion control structures in the burned area near Ramsey Road, north of Gold Hill ... trying to slow runoff on barren hillsides."

... — Mail Tribune, Jan. 11

It's hard to know whether House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., is opposed to national service programs in general, or because AmeriCorps is the one of the few unambiguous successes President Clinton can point to in his first two years.

There are some criticisms to level at a program of national service — one being that it's hard to find enough money to make volunteers available everywhere they're needed. But the notion of creating an analog to military service has been around for many years, supported by politicians of all stripes.

CLINTON SHOULD welcome this Gingrich assault as an opportunity to contrast what the president rightly sees as a legitimate, creative use of government with the kind of automatic, anti-government slashing that Gingrich represents.

There are many things the federal government does wrong. But creating opportunities for young people to help their country while putting a small amount of money aside, usually to pay for college, is not one of them.

The program does not coerce: States may participate at their option, and young men and women choose to apply. The list of applicants is miles longer than the list of available slots.

THERE ARE 38 young men and women at a work camp in the Applegate Ranger District this winter, working in the woods as well as renovating structures and parks in Butte Falls and Prospect.

So far, AmeriCorps is a success in America's forests and urban areas. Newsweek found volunteers highly praised and working in such places as homes for troubled children — the kinds of charity homes that Gingrich envisions as substitutes for America's welfare mothers.



Voices in the Forest



Spring 1995

Rogue River AmeriCorps

The Dam Experts *By Theresia Erickson*

The Hull mountain wildfire was started by human cause on August 23, 1994 and finally controlled by August 31, 1994. 12,000 acres of private and public lands were burned extensively. Eight homes, 36 out buildings, and 15 vehicles were destroyed. One life was lost.

With most of the vegetation and trees gone, there is nothing to protect the small gullies from eroding and becoming large ravines. Sediment traps provide adequate protection by blocking sediments and giving vegetation a chance to stabilize.

On January 3, 1995 our crew (Tom's #1 crew) met with Ivend Holen, the Hull Mountain Wildfire Coordinator. We traveled down Ramsey Road to a location where sediment traps had been previously built. All the traps we looked at were full.

After driving to our new job site, we were entertained and accompanied by the land owner's dog, nicknamed Wonder Mutt. Wonder Mutt would fetch any stick from any ravine or creek you threw the stick into.

Ivend gave us background information on our project, and then we proceeded to build our own check dams. We used five foot steel posts, 10 gauge wire, hog wire (3 feet high), fence pounders, and woven fabric.

To build a sediment trap a trench is first dug across the ravine. Next, between four to six posts are pounded along the trench line, followed by attaching hog wire to the posts. Fabric is stretched across the hog wire and secured. A spillway is then cut into the



Tom's #1 Crew at Hull Mountain Wildfire Site after a hard, dirty day of work. From left to right: Top row; Eric Tucker, Risa Huetter, Theresia Erickson, John Maguire Bottom Row; Seth Lawson (Holding Wonder Mutt), Cisco Villastrego, Nicole Belle

top of the dam to release pressure off the structure. Lastly, rocks are laid under the spillway to prevent erosion from water coming over the dam.

This whole process became quite a chore as water was rushing down the gullies from the rains. It is also difficult when fellow crew members think it might be funny to release the water from the dam above you.

After telling us how a regular check dam is built, Ivend told us to use our imagination and resources to do our best.

A few of the crew members took to building natural looking dams instead of the metal dams. Logs were placed the length of the ditch and supported

with stakes, fabric, and wire.

Between January 3 and January 10, we built a total of 36 check dams. On our last day there, most of the dams were already full and holding up.

One last thing I would like to mention is, Mrs. Robinson has a really cool dog.

"This is to express congratulations and sincere appreciation for the good and productive work that your staff and crews recently accomplished... The crew of AmeriCorps youths...were very polite and informative to visitors to the work area. We believe that crews like this one exemplify the characteristics [AmeriCorps] is trying to build in its young workers- an enthusiastic, hard working team accomplishing worthwhile projects quickly and efficiently." - Ivend Holen, Hull Mt. Fire Coordinator



Personal Profile

By Eddie K. Mather



"Life seems to be working itself out...I am glad AmeriCorps was an option in my life"

- Edward K. Mather

7 am a product of both generational addiction and welfare. My fiancé Debbie and I are currently raising four children. I am 21 years old.

All through grade school my teachers told my mother to impress upon me that poverty should never be a barrier in my pursuit of a higher education. When I got to junior high my step-dad had left. My mother was headed for welfare and addiction. I was looking for something to kill the pain too. I thought I had found it in drugs and alcohol. My grades slipped from straight A's to B's and C's. I found myself less interested in school and more interested in partying. I ended up dropping out of in the middle of my sophomore year.

At sixteen I met Debbie. She is a

few years older than me and has two children from a previous marriage. She was an addict and together we did a lot of drugs. I fathered my first child at 17. I never knew my father, and I vowed I would never let my daughter know how that felt. Over the next couple of years I tried to get my act together and hold a job. I worked in restaurants, in mills, did construction and cut wood. The whole time drugs controlled my life. I was unable to hold a job while Debbie and the children were still on welfare. I tried everything in my power to control my drug use, but it kept getting worse.

At nineteen, with my second daughter on the way, Debbie and I were homeless. Our lives had hit an all time low. Our only option was drug treatment.

I went through twelve months of drug therapy. It was not an easy process. I discovered along the way that most of the addicts who went through the program were not able to get clean and stay clean. Fortunately, Debbie and I were able to find a new and much better way of life. I soon found myself wondering what to do with my life. I felt a tremendous amount of responsibility to take care of my children by getting off welfare and rising above the poverty level. I know that without drugs in my life I have potential.

I went on to pass my G.E.D. tests with almost perfect scores. I knew that if I was to have any chances of supporting my family I was going to need further education. I spoke to my welfare worker about higher education, but she refused to support me in my decision. She then sent me to the J.O.B.S. program.

After about three weeks of testing, my worker in the J.O.B.S. program told me to make every effort to go to college. She told me I could also go through a year of vocational training.

I first had to find an area that I was interested in. Then I was to go to interviews with people in the Rogue Valley who were working in that field. I thought I would enjoy working in the parks service or the Forest Service. Landscape management was the only course they offered that might be applicable in either of these fields.

I was given an interview with Tom Dew, the outdoor recreation planner for the Rogue River National Forest, and he told me about AmeriCorps.

I am enjoying the AmeriCorps program because it is giving me an honest outlook on what it would be like to work for the Forest Service. I am also meeting many people who work for the Forest Service. I am hoping this will give me an opportunity to go to college. I feel I am doing my part to preserve our environment. I really enjoy working with a group of people my age who are trying an environmentally conscious lifestyle and are full of fresh new ideas. Debbie and I now have almost a year and a half clean and sober. Life seems to be working itself out. It is not easy, and it doesn't look to be getting any easier, but I am glad AmeriCorps was an option in my life.

Grape Hyacinth Sunsets

perform in the stillness of the mountain life outstretched familiar arms, they know me well. I hug my favorite tree. Jumping through the colorful land. I do not care to know what time it is. I only care to breath in the perfumed forest - dense but breathtaking wonder bestows my thoughts. Wonder of what inhabits the land that so profusely grows and spews forth life and love from the span of the owls wings, and the dew on the tasty grasses. Resorting back to the pavement covered streets is oh... so difficult; but hearty for my soul to think about.

Laurel Alexanian

The Butte Falls Experience

By Risa Huetter

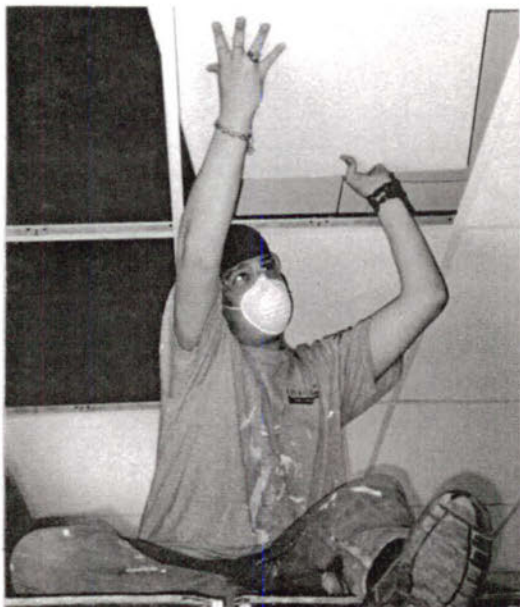
For the past month I have had the opportunity to acquire many skills that will help me every minute of every day to come. I am not just thinking of all the practical construction experience I gained; I am



*Bill Tucker and Coy Wiss
Bill proved to be the life force
behind the Butte Falls community
project.*

thinking specifically of our crew's interaction in the small logging community of Butte Falls. The consideration for others and the appreciation for hard work was evident in every person I had the chance to talk to.

Construction Crew #1, the Lunkers, was the first to participate in this project. From day one on the work site, I



was amazed by the community support that rallied around us. We were greeted with smiles and handshakes and, after a day of training, we dove into all the projects they had lined up for us. Bill Tucker, who has been the life force behind the project, volunteered to train and oversee every aspect of this community event. Anne Tucker is one of many women who supplied the crew with constant refreshments and words of encouragement. We cannot thank them enough for all the delicious goodies sent our way.

The community accepted us as a whole and did much to make us feel welcome. The first week of our stay we were invited to the high school basketball game and, although we found we were stared at a lot, we understood. For, in a town of 385 people, new faces are definitely noticed.

After some of our work became more public, we were noticed as a helping force and not as intruders in their town.

We worked in the rain and snow and many people of the town kept working right by our side. Even the mayor, Alvin Thompson, came out one dreary day to help dig a ditch in the mud for a new path through the park.

The Lunkers did accomplish a lot in that short month. We completed many projects around the community hall, including a drop ceiling, an awning, 4 new doors, new shutters, and many coats of paint. We built a storage shed for the library and a railing around its deck, as well. The park restrooms were also retiled and renovated.

Once again, I would like to thank all of the people of Butte Falls who welcomed us into their town and treated us so kindly. I thoroughly enjoyed my time spent working and learning with them.



*Risa Huetter and Theresia Erickson finishing
off the deck*



*Tim Dodge and Laurel Alexanian finishing
up the great painting job they did on the
storage shed built for the Butte Falls Library.*

MAKING A DIFFERENCE *By Kristin Emanuel*

Making a difference seems to be in the minds of most people these days. It is possible to make a difference in almost every aspect of life. When someone decides to make a difference it can either be positive or negative. The motto, "Getting Things Done" is another way of saying "Making a difference". Isn't it logical that the phrase "Getting Things Done" should signify a positive response? AmeriCorps is specifically designed around this phrase.

The Rogue River AmeriCorps places its main focus on the environment. I truly believe in making a difference and getting things done in our environment. The AmeriCorps program was set up with several good intentions. However, these intentions seem to fade or get forgotten in the chaos of everyday issues.

Volunteers seem to make a positive difference all the time. The AmeriCorps program was also intended to be a

volunteer effort. This intention has almost dissolved away from the focus of the program because a major blinder that exists is money.

Money creates a visible means to an end. Reforestation and several other resource management effects are expensive and are not visible until way into the future, making it easy to lose sight of one's first intention.

Unfortunately, controversy surrounds the AmeriCorps program. Negative press clouds positive intentions at a rapid pace. This tends to occur often when one tries to make a difference. It is also difficult to support something that is continually diminished. This is the one time you

must really believe in your cause, and remember the reason why you chose to believe in what you are doing.

The AmeriCorps program has the potential to make a great deal of difference. Blinders need to be taken off, and we need to stick together while the focus remains on our beginning intentions

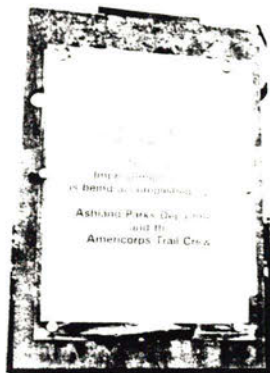


AmeriCorps
6941 Upper Applegate Rd
Jacksonville, OR
97530





Voices in the forest



THE NEWSLETTER FOR STAR GULCH AMERICORP

My lunch with Mr. Americorps

by John McGuire

Over the past few months I feel I have made it clear that I have somewhat of an ego, but over Christmas vacation I was given the opportunity that I don't even think that I deserved. I was given the chance to have lunch with "the" Joel Berg - Mr. Americorps - at the Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C. Needless to say, I was a little nervous because, after all, I was meeting with the man who made it possible to Get Things Done.

In the true Americorps fashion I was 15 minutes late and blamed it on someone else. Honestly, I originally went to the wrong building, and I think that was the day I had to save the lives of 40 school children who were trapped in a burning bus. An Americorps member's job is never done.

As I walked into God's office, or J.B. as I like to call him, I was truly amazed. His office was bigger than the men's dorm. My first impression was, I finally met the man who has more power than Biz (Bill Murphy, Site Supervisor at Star Gulch). I thought I would never see that day.

After I got over my initial shock, I was given a small tour of the department as we proceeded to the cafeteria. We chose our lunch and sat down to talk about a number of things, ranging from my background to the growth of the Star Gulch community.

At one point he asked me if it would be helpful if we had more power tools. I told him who needs power tools when we have people like Kristen "Kaymonious" Emanuel swinging a pulaski or Tom "we not leavin' til we're heavin'" Luthy throwing a hazel hoe. Joel agreed whole heartedly and admitted that he forgot who I had been blessed to work with over the past few months.

On a serious note, he did ask me if I thought the program and its members has grown in the few months we have been here. I told him we have made great strides. This program continues through the strength and attitude of all the members.

We walked back to his office following lunch. He gave me an Americorps memento and we said our goodbyes. I'll never forget that day and I'll never forget that turkey salad sandwich that the Father of Americorps paid for.

Projects completed

Nov. 1 - Dec. 2

*Restored CCC shelter. Improved its surrounding campground at McKee Bridge for Applegate Ranger District. Facility sanded, over 100 trees planted, blackberry brush removed for 100 feet along Applegate River, picnic areas brushed, raked and sanded, and 100 feet of ADA trail constructed.

*1/2 mile new interpretive trail constructed for Ruch Elementary School. Access road reconstructed to allow for adequate drainage, railroad ties placed, and playground area landscaped, included terracing and rock retaining wall.

*2.25 miles of trail reconstruction for the Prospect Ranger District on the Sugar Pine Trail.

*15 acres of high reach pruning, Prospect Ranger District.

*Construction at the Gulch Facilities: 10 rooms constructed, "storage area" walled in, doors hung, painting and grounds landscaped.

*2,500 pipe gaskets replaced and maintained for the Forest Service Nursery.

*1,500 pieces of manzanita brush cut and installed at the Squaw Arm of the Applegate Reservoir installed for steelhead habitat.

Dec. 5 - Dec. 22

*900 feet of new fence constructed, 700 feet demolished at the Whiskey Springs Campground in Butte Falls. 12 tables sanded and trees pruned at the Fourbit Campground.

*5,450 feet of trail heavily reconstructed on the Rogue River Trail for Stewart State Park.

*48.5 acres of high reach pruning in Prospect, off Highway 62.

*5,700 feet of brush rows installed for steelhead habitat. (150 pieces of brush every 250 feet).

Personally it was refreshing to work with such a motivated bunch, what a work ethic is all about. No standing around, just getting with the program. Hope it becomes contagious throughout the forest. Looking forward to the Americorps tornado returning soon.

-Michael Ricketts



*3.5 miles of trail reconstructed and maintained - Da Ku Ba Te De trail on the Applegate Ranger District.

*One mile of new trail along the Applegate River - Fish Trail.

Jan. 3 - Jan 6

*330ft. trail reconstruction, 8 rock walls, and 3 culverts put in at Stewart State Park.

*2.75 acres of scalping for the BLM to provide free fire wood to senior citizens.

*36 check dams constructed to control silt entering Sams Creek at Hull Mt. fire site.

*750ft. brush rows added to fish habitat.

*12 acres scalping for BLM

*35 acres high reach pruning in Prospect.

*600ft of new mountain bike trail on White Rabbit trail in Ashland. Includes 4 climbing turns.



Americorps?

by Rita Hunter

X generation? Who is that? My generation? You're kidding me, right? What I see of my generation is a quite a few enthusiastic young adults making America a better place to live by participating in the Americorps program. There are slackers in my age group, but unfortunately there are slackers in every age group.

18-24 is a difficult time in life. It is a time for new beginnings. For many a time to start breaking away from family to become more independent and start thinking of the dreaded adult world. Some think of college, some think about jobs, and still others think about starting families of their own.

The first two options crossed my mind a thousand times, the third I didn't want to cross my mind. I was becoming quite distraught with the thought of rising college tuition costs and how I really didn't have any applicable experience that would help me get a job that paid higher than minimum wage. Soon the thought of living with my parents for the rest of my life scared me like nothing else has. I ran, I didn't walk, down to the employment agency to find a job, any job.

And there it was, the Americorps brochure. I picked it up and began to read. As I read on I thought it was just a little to good to be true. Room and board is

provided for a small fee. A living stipend, health insurance, and an educational award for \$4,725 (once 1812 hours of service are completed) are part of the program, too. You have your choice of fields: environmental, public safety, human services, or education. I had always preferred the outdoor lifestyle to the every day hustle of city life, so the environmental division called my name.

"I'd rather wake up in the middle of nowhere than in any city on earth." - Steve McQueen

We are now in the third month of the first year of Americorps' existence. Much time and energy went into the planning stages. There were endless forms, proposals to write, loop holes to deal with, and trips back and forth to Washington D.C. to convince those government types that the Americorps program deserves as much funding as possible.

Everyone should realize what has been accomplished and what is done daily to keep Americorps running. Americorps doesn't only benefit those who are members; it benefits all people who will be affected by the projects.

The Rogue River Americorps began on November 1, 1994. If everything runs as planned, we will have completed the first program by early September of 1995.

There are many Americorps crews all over the United States doing various types of work to improve life as we know it, and "Get things done." Nationwide there are about 20,000 members, 32 of which are based in the Rogue River National Forest.

I really hadn't realized just how much the Rogue River National Forest Americorps has accomplished, as a whole, until now. I hope everyone else takes time to reflect and be proud of the things we are getting done. I look forward to every minute of every day to come in the next few months with Americorps.

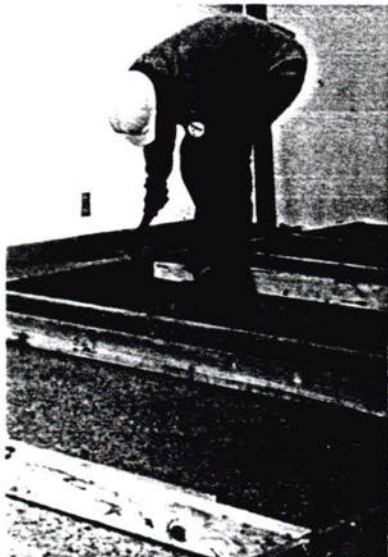
Project Highlights fisheries habitat

by Tim Dodge

Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife biologists face a major problem when trying to establish stable populations of warm water game fish in man-made reservoirs. High numbers of juvenile fish are eaten by the larger fish, mainly due to lack of cover and shelter to protect them from predators. One proven solution is to build protective structures for those fish. Various materials are used, ranging from old Christmas trees to brush cleared from timber stands. The structures act very much like a coral reef or dense weed bed, providing protection and corridors for the fish.

Americorps crews had the opportunity to help build new structures such as these, as well as to improve existing ones, to benefit largemouth bass and other warm water species in the Applegate Reservoir. The crews saw the projects through all stages: cutting manzanita to build the structures, hauling the bushes into the lakebed, drilling the holes for the cables, and securing the new structures on the lakebed. Working with the help of biologists, an estimated four thousand pieces of manzanita were placed, coating much of the upper Squaw arm of Applegate Lake with ideal habitat until they attain a size where they are not so heavily preyed upon.

Later, corps members will go back and check how well the structures are working by snorkeling in the area, or trying out their luck with a rod and reel. These structures could be a blessing or a curse for the fishermen at the reservoir. They can mean more fish to smart fishermen, or more objects to snag their line on.



Director lauds AmeriCorps program



Mail Tribune / Bob Penneil

HELPING HAND — Joel Berg, national director of the AmeriCorps program, helps Rogue Valley AmeriCorps members create fish habitat at Applegate Lake Thursday. Berg visited southern Oregon as part of a tour of Northwest programs.

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

APPLEGATE — The mud-spattered young man wearing the yellow hard hat grinned into the cold wind blowing across Applegate Lake.

"It's really exciting to move from the theory phase to making this a reality," Joel Berg said. "To work alongside these people is really something."

Berg was among a dozen AmeriCorps members Thursday who dragged manzanita brush down into the muddy basin of the lake's Squaw arm, where the brush was attached to a cable. Come spring when the lake is full, the brush will serve as fish habitat.

But Berg, 30, wasn't a member of the young national service crew based at the old Star Gulch facility of the Applegate Ranger District. Rather, he is national director of the program, appointed by President Clinton in early 1993.

He stopped by the Rogue River National Forest program, one of nearly 40 nationwide, as part of a tour of Northwest projects. In the program that began this fall, people in their late teens and early 20s earn at least \$7,500 and an educational voucher of \$4,725 for 10 months of work.

In addition to a variety of environmental tasks, they are also doing rural development work, including projects expected to start soon in Prospect and Butte Falls.

A longtime supporter of the program, Berg noted that it has components similar to that of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the Great Depression.

"But there is the educational benefit that didn't exist before," Berg said. "Not only is the government asking something of young people, but we're giving something back."

"The reason Clinton believes in it so

strongly is that it's kind of a GI bill without the GI," he added. "This is an alternative way for young Americans to do service for their country without joining the military."

Nationwide, there are about 20,000 members, but he expects the ranks to grow.

"I think it's working even better than expected," he said. "This is work that either wouldn't get done or work that the taxpayers would have to pay about five times as much if private contractors were to do it."

In addition to learning good work ethics and gaining experience, many

participants will go to college and continue to add to the economy, he said.

Many young people would have a bleak future without the program, he said.

"They are doing things government

couldn't do, or doing it better for a lot cheaper," he said. "The president hopes this goes beyond party politics. A lot of Republicans supported this."

Because of that bipartisan support, Berg expects AmeriCorps to survive future political battles.

"We need members of Congress to come up and see what these people are doing," he said. "If they think they are young, they're people being overpaid, then they can kill the program."

But he figures that most observers will come to the conclusion the work is important, along with the training.

"These people are working darn hard, and the money they are getting is actually pretty measly," he said.

The program offers a future for many young people, he said.

"They are doing things that need to be done," he said. "This is not make-work. The president's goal is to get up to 100,000 members by the end of four years."

"It's really exciting to move from the theory phase to making this a reality. To work alongside these people is really something."

— Joel Berg,
AmeriCorps director

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Community

Grants Pass Daily Courier

David Haerle, 474-3823 or 474-3716

6A

Friday, March 31, 1995

Courier 3/31/95 MORE THAN JUST A JOB

While earning college money, AmeriCorps crew provides a service, learns about hard work

By Doug O'Loughlin
of the Daily Courier

APPLEGATE — AmeriCorps members who spent Thursday digging out a pile of dirt after a landslide weren't just earning money for college and providing a service for neighbors of Thompson Creek, their supervisor says. They were also cleaning up after their parent agency.

Bill Fleeger, supervising the eight-member AmeriCorps crew, said the landslide was probably caused by a clearcut done at least 10 years ago in the hills above a drainage ditch. The ditch takes water from Sturges Creek to Thompson Creek, but the landslide had blocked it.

"That was probably a (U.S.) Forest Service cut," said Fleeger. He works out of the Applegate Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest, part of the Forest Service.

"That makes this kind of ironic," Fleeger continued. His crew spent most of this week working on trails, but had a free day Thursday. So he sent the troops out after receiving a call from the neighborhood ditch association.

AmeriCorps is a federally funded public-service program established by Congress a year ago under the advice of President Clinton.

The Oregon part of the program started up in September, and an estimated 500 aspiring students across the state are taking part.

Enterprising workers between the ages of 18 and 25 can help their community and earn money for school through the program.

The Southern Oregon team works out of the Rogue River National Forest, and falls under the public land and environment part of AmeriCorps. Recent projects included surfacing a trail around Upper Table Rock in February.

Participants, about 35 total, work on a 10-month-long pro-

Budget cuts loom

Some funding for the AmeriCorps program could be cut under part of a series of rescissions going through Congress.

Julie McGregor, press secretary for Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., said among spending reductions the Senate is considering, the AmeriCorps program could be cut back to the levels of the 1994 fiscal year. That means \$210 million out of the \$575 million budget could disappear.

Local AmeriCorps administrators said it was too early to say how the cuts would affect the program.

gram. During that time they live at the Star Ranger Station of the Applegate district.

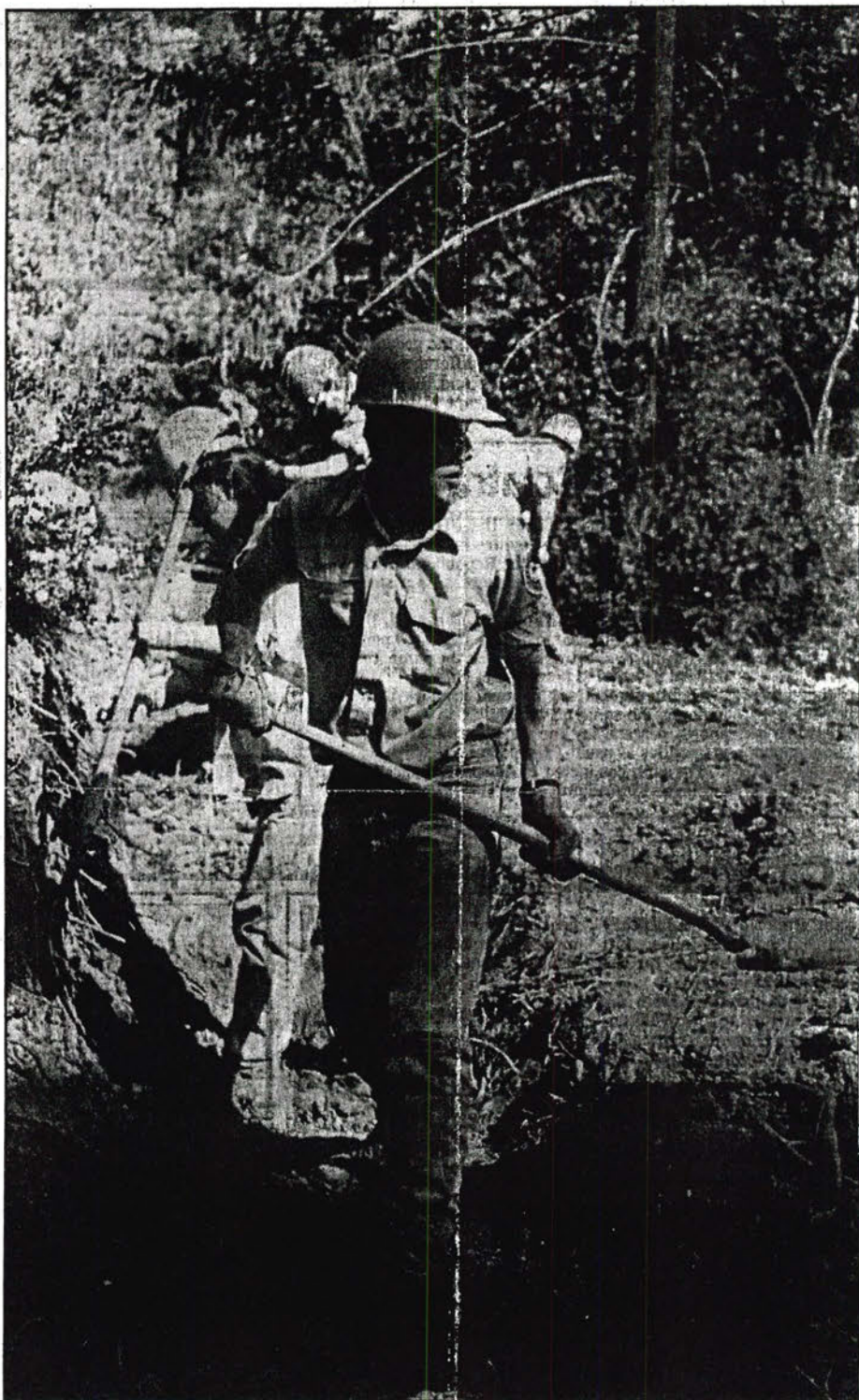
They receive a stipend of \$7,660 and, at the end of their service, a \$4,725 "scholarship" slated to pay for future education or pay off a student loan.

For 20-year-old Amethyst Black of Medford the program means she can go to college, which she hopes to do in Texas sometime after completing her stint.

"I wasn't going to be able to get a job that would pay for school," Black said. "I didn't have any money at all to pay for school. I worked at IHOP and that wasn't going anywhere at all."

"Now I can go to school."

Another team member said he enjoyed finding out how to help the environment. Taking a break from clearing out the drainage ditch, John Maguire, a 24-year-old AmeriCorps member from North Carolina, said he was glad



DOUG O'LOUGHLIN/Daily Courier

AmeriCorps worker Robin Reed, 19, of Ashland, helps clear a landslide Thursday.

to provide water passage to keep fish alive.

"This is going to bring cooler water to lower areas," Maguire

said. "I didn't know about that stuff before, so I'm learning."

"I'm learning how to work hard, too, I know that for sure,"

Maguire added. "I think this program gives you a lot of discipline. It also gives you a real good work ethic."

AmeriCorps stresses work ethic

Also provides college money

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

APPLEGATE — Eagle Point resident Melissa Powers, 20, gave up her job at a local pizza restaurant to join AmeriCorps.

"I want to earn some money to help me with college," she explained. "I want to get a degree in forestry and work outside."

Seattle resident Lynne Petersen, 21, who had been working as a nanny while going to college, was also looking to earn money to further her education.

"I wanted the discipline and the college education," she said. "Also, I wanted to learn a lot about the environment."

But there was another reason Petersen, who sports a thin silver nose ring, had for joining.

"I think it will be fun," she said with a grin.

The two were among the 38 young adults standing in the rain near the Star Gulch barracks in the Applegate Ranger District that will serve as their home base for the next 11 months.

The camp, which began Tuesday, will be administered by the Northwest Youth Corps in a partnership with the Rogue River National Forest. It is one of eight AmeriCorps camps that have been established in the nation.

Under the national service program created by President Clinton, participants receive up to \$7,500 per year in pay plus an educational award of \$4,725 at the end of the year to go toward college or trade school expenses.

During their tour, the coed group, ages 17 to 24, will learn career skills while doing tasks ranging from trail maintenance to construction projects.

The 38 participants come from as far as North Carolina and Minnesota, but most — nearly 30 — are from Oregon. They were among thousands of applicants who applied for AmeriCorps jobs across the country, and were selected based on their ex-



Mail Tribune / Jim Craven

KNOTTY — Members of AmeriCorps practice a team-building technique, untying a human knot without letting go of each other's hands.

perience, enthusiasm and career goals.

"A youth program such as this is exactly what the forest is looking for," Rogue River Forest Supervisor Jim Gladen told the group. "This is just the thing we need to help our spirit."

Carl Lierman, 76, of Tigard, who worked for two years in the Civilian Conservation Corps that ran from 1933 to 1942, told the young crew that it is also what the nation needs.

In addition to teaching young people a good work ethic and providing training, it would also provide community service, he said.

"This is what our group (CCC

alumni) was hoping that Bill Clinton would do, something for you kids," he said.

In addition to working on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management projects, the AmeriCorps crew will assist communities such as Butte Falls and Prospect in a variety of civic chores. The communities have each received \$100,000 federal grants awarded through the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative aimed at providing economic stability to Northwest timber-based communities.

"Our age group kind of gets a bad rap for being apathetic and lazy," said Dan Miller, 23, a crew leader who has bachelor's de-

grees in resource management and public policy. "This program gives us an opportunity to demonstrate that is not true."

The Star Gulch facility, which is still being spruced up for the crew, includes separate bunk houses for men and women, a dining hall, a recreation/meeting hall and a staff trailer. No drugs or alcohol will be allowed.

A husband and wife will cook dinner for the crew and help the crew prepare breakfast and lunch.

"We're stressing real health-oriented food," Miller said. "They are going to need healthy meals because we're going to be working them hard."

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



BLM NEWS

OREGON & WASHINGTON

Team Effort Improves Upper Table Rock Hiking Trail

MEDFORD—One of the Rogue Valley's most popular hiking trails received a major facelift, thanks to a cooperative effort involving two land management agencies and a timber company helicopter.

Key to the nearly week-long project were the Croman Company helicopter that ferried 270,000 pounds of crushed rock to 54 drop sites along the trail and an Americorps crew supplied by the Rogue River National Forest. The 11-member crew, consisting of young adults 18 to 23 years old, spread the rock with the aid of motor-powered wheelbarrows loaned by the Siskiyou National Forest's Gold Beach Ranger District.

There is no road access to the trail which rises about 900 vertical feet from trailhead to the top of the rock.

Increased use of the one and 1/4-mile-long trail which receives an estimated 10,000 hikers annually in recent years, caused steady deterioration of the trail surface. Prior to the improvement, the trail surface was formed from a sandstone clay that when wet, created a muddy, sticky surface that hikers trudged through or tried to avoid, unfortunately causing more damage.

Cost of the federally funded Americorps crew, helicopter and ground support person-



An Americorps worker improves a section of the Upper Table Rock Trail. The 11-member crew was dispatched from the Rogue River National Forest.

nel totalled about \$13,000.

In late 1992, a contractor rocked the lower quarter-mile of the trail at a cost of nearly \$7,000. At that time it would have cost an additional \$35,000 to complete the project. Net savings to the BLM and taxpayers as a result of this year's project is \$21,000.

Additional work by the Americorps crew included installing benches and stone borders along the trail, and waterbars to direct water off the trail. For safety purposes the trail was closed for a two-week period during the improvement project and was reopened March 3.

Jean Williams, environmental coordinator for the Butte Falls Resource Area, expressed her gratitude with the work, saying, "With the school hikes, we used to fight the mud all the way up the trail and all the way back down. With this new surface, we hope all that will be eliminated."

In late March, a group of Table Rock hike leaders planted 200 buckbrush



The Upper Table Rock Trail in BLM's Medford District is a popular spring and summertime destination in southern Oregon.

(*ceanothus cuneatus*) seedlings and about 50 madrone seedlings along the upper trail. The seedlings, donated to the BLM by The Nature Conservancy, were planted along side trails where erosion is a problem, and on shortcuts at trail corners. ▼

—Kurt Austermann & Tim Haller



Two Americorps workers slog through clay-like muck as they distribute part of the 135 tons of crushed rock on the trail.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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Rogue River 
National Forest

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