

NWSA LINKS increases the capacity of Aprovecho, a non-profit research and education center

5/2/08

Re: AmeriCorps Week

In anticipation of the upcoming AmeriCorps Week, I am writing to recognize the positive impact that AmeriCorps has had at our site. I am the site supervisor for Aprovecho, a non-profit research and education center. We are a relatively small organization and can only afford to retain most of our staff at part time. It can be extremely difficult for us, as staff, to maintain the operations and development of the organization within such limiting available hours.

Since becoming a work/living site for AmeriCorps volunteers, we have seen our capacity grow significantly. After signing up, we started out with a nine-member crew that spent three cold and rainy months working with us to overhaul the campus and implement systems for better stewardship of our land. This task had been seemingly insurmountable without their hard work.

We have since reduced the amount of simultaneous positions, and spread the responsibilities into other departments of our organization. Having assistance in outreach and program development, as well as in our forest, garden, and land stewardship has freed up time for our staff to focus on the overall development of our goals and mission.

I would personally like to thank Erika Johnson and Mindy Crouchley of the LINKS program for their continued support of Aprovecho. They have been extremely helpful in developing Aprovecho's AmeriCorps service program. I appreciate their professionalism, and their willingness to help Aprovecho integrate LINKS program members into our unique site. They have been very patient and understanding with me, and should be commended for the great work they are doing.

Aprovecho is proud to have played a small part in sponsoring some of the 542,000 people who have served as AmeriCorps members. We sincerely appreciate being given the opportunity to be involved in such an important program for creating stronger communities through service learning.

Cheers!

Jeremy Roth
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Aprovecho