



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service Earth Team

Volunteer Showcase

Earth Team Volunteer to NRCS Employee

By Julianne Lovergine, Eco AmeriCorps Member, Colchester, VT

Tim McCoy is a former Earth Team volunteer who is now a Soil Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Middlebury, Vermont.

Tim grew up in rural Missouri and witnessed the transformation of farmland and natural areas to big-box stores and development. "I spent a lot of time outdoors. When my family moved closer to Kansas City, I missed the freedom and the wildlife. The selling of farmland on the outskirts of the city motivated me to care about preservation and wiser use of the land," he explained.

Tim and his wife Heather left Missouri in 2008 and moved to upstate New York where he earned a degree from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at State University of New York.

After Tim finished graduate school, his wife Heather got a job in Vermont, so they made the move to the Green Mountain state in May 2013.

Tim says the Earth Team Volunteer Program was a great way to explore careers at NRCS. "I wanted to find opportunities to get acquainted with conservation on the ground in Vermont and I thought volunteering would be a good way to do that." He volunteered in Addison County and helped NRCS Agronomist Sandra Primard with resource concern assessments. "The scenery was stunning, and the assessment we did for this



Tim McCoy with his wife Heather and daughter Vivian.

particular farm was going to involve protection of a nearby wetland area. I felt like what I was doing was really worthwhile and needed," says.

Tim's Earth Team experience helped him take advantage of employment opportunities with NRCS. "My time as a volunteer enabled me to network in a way that was very organic--getting to know NRCS employees without pressure or expectations. It allowed me to see if working for NRCS was something I'd want to do as a career."

Tim encourages others to explore an Earth Team volunteer opportunity to test the waters for a career in conservation. "If you have an interest in conservation and agriculture, this may be a great opportunity to learn some new things and see some unique places."

The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the National Earth Team Office at 888-526-3227 or visit:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/EarthTeam>

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