



Position Description

Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Position Title: *Conservation Assistant*

Host Site: *The El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts (RCD)*

Site Supervisor: *Mark Egbert*

Contact: *(530) 295-5630, Mark.Egbert@ca.usda.gov*

Position Location: The El Dorado County and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District is located in Placerville, CA. Placerville is located about an hour from Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe, nestled in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The member will be working closely with the American River Conservancy located in Coloma, located about eight miles north of Placerville on Highway 49. The area is rich in history and recreational opportunities, including rafting, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding.

Organization Description: The RCD is a grassroots, non-regulatory government organization that works to meet individual and community goals for the natural resources in their community through voluntary approaches. The mission statement of the El Dorado County and Georgetown Divide RCDs is "To promote the responsible stewardship of our natural resources within our boundaries." The RCDs objectives are in four areas of strategic focus: (1) Organization – Develop the capacity to plan and deliver conservation programs; (2) Fire – Significantly reduce the risk to life, property and watershed health; (3) Watershed – Coordinate and facilitate the development of a watershed scale resource management program; (4) Education – Help to fill the training and resource management information needs of homeowners, landowners, and resource users. The RCD Watershed Coordinator specifically addresses the objective to ‘design a watershed education program to increase watershed awareness, promote watershed stewardship, provide professional training, and provide opportunities for the public to actively engage in watershed protection and restoration’. The member will be an integral part in meeting this objective and the overall objectives of the RCD.

Program Description: The member will be working in collaboration with the American River Conservancy (ARC). The RCD and ARC are members of the South Fork American River Watershed Group and share the same goals outlined in the Management Plan. The member will be working towards meeting the goals and projects outlined in the plan. The member will focus on restoration projects and recreation management in collaboration with local stakeholders, assess the health of our watershed using citizen science, recruit volunteers to accomplish project elements and monitoring, and educate students and the community about being responsible stewards of our natural resources.

Position Description: The Conservation Assistant will assist in coordinating and implementing projects that focus on the goals and objectives of both the South Fork American River Watershed Plan and the RCD strategic focus objectives. Member activities include watershed restoration activities such as vegetation planting, creek cleanups, trail building, non-native weed eradication and volunteer events; watershed education including the implementation of an annual service-learning project with high school students and community awareness events; habitat improvement projects; water quality monitoring and data analysis; and grant research and writing.

Required Qualifications: A basic knowledge of natural resources, environmental science, or water resources is beneficial. Recommended: the ability to work in a group setting and excellent writing skills; demonstrated commitment to natural resource conservation; comfortable working outdoors; and flexibility and ability to manage multiple priorities. Be able to carry heavy loads/tools for long distances, hiking for long distances, and constant activity including bending, lifting, pulling, etc.

Desired Qualifications: A Bachelors degree is desirable but not required.

Additional Benefits: None.

Website: www.eldoradorcd.org

Equal Opportunity Employment: RCD is committed to following recruitment and hiring program which ensures equal employment opportunities to all people without regard to race, color, gender, religion, age, national origin or handicap.



Member Service Plan
Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Host Site: American River Conservancy / El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts (RCD)

Position Title: Conservation Assistant

Designated Site Supervisor: Mark Egbert

Term of Service: 2016-17 Service Year

Organizational Background: The RCD was organized to address resource management problems and promote sound management of natural resources in El Dorado County. The District is a grassroots, non-regulatory government organization that works to meet individual and community goals for the natural resources in their community through voluntary approaches. The District advises and assists individual landowners and public agencies in planning and implementation of conservation practices for the protection, restoration, or development of land, water, and related natural resources. The mission statement of the El Dorado County and Georgetown Divide RCDs is "To promote the responsible stewardship of our natural resources within our boundaries." The Watershed Program specifically addresses the objective to 'design a watershed education program to increase watershed awareness, promote watershed stewardship, provide professional training, and provide opportunities for the public to actively engage in watershed protection and restoration'. The member will be an integral part in meeting this objective and the overall objectives of the RCD.

Organizational/Program Goals 2016: The RCDs Board of Directors developed the following objectives in four areas of strategic focus: (1) Organization – Develop the capacity to plan and deliver conservation programs; (2) Fire – Significantly reduce the risk to life, property and watershed health; (3) Watershed – Coordinate and facilitate the development of a watershed scale resource management program; (4) Education – Help to fill the training and resource management information needs of homeowners, landowners, and resource users.

Member Service Plan Overview and Outcomes: The member will be working in collaboration with the American River Conservancy (ARC) and will assist in all ARC lead projects. The RCD and ARC are members of the South Fork American River Watershed Group and share the same goals outlined in the Management Plan finalized by the group in 2009. The member will be working towards meeting the goals and projects outlined in the plan.

Service Position Major Projects:

1. Watershed Restoration and Assessment:

- a. **Priority Project:** *The Watershed Education Summit is a service learning project aimed at using student volunteers to collect viable data on an Eldorado National Forest Healthy Forest Project. The member will assist with the planning and coordination of teacher meetings, campsite logistics and presentations. Calibrate and perform maintenance on water quality and other equipment. Perform protocols in the field and lead student groups.*
 - i. **Projected Hours:** 160
 - ii. **Estimated Outcome:** 0 restoration acres, 12 assessment acres
- b. **Priority Project:** *Finnon Lake Restoration Project. The District will be conducting monitoring and survey activities on the recently restored reservoir including collecting water quality and storage/ capacity curve analysis. The RCD recently completed a 129 acres restoration project of the recreational area currently designated as a wildlife refuge. Habitat improvements are scheduled through 2018. The member will coordinate restoration activities, volunteer recruitment and organization, and community events.*
 - i. **Projected Hours:** 200
 - ii. **Estimated Outcome:** 129 restoration acres
- c. **Priority Project:** *The Gold Bug Park Restoration Project is a recreation management project that utilizes adaptive management and cooperative efforts to improve a local city park. In coordination with the city of Placerville, the RCD is in progress of improving the local aesthetics and educational opportunities offered at the park. The member will perform trail building and maintenance activities. Actively search for funding opportunities to install educational signage along the trail, install park amenities and to reconstruct the Historic Baltic Tower. Improve native habitat for wildlife and pollinators in the park by conserving native vegetation and planting beneficial plants while eradicating non-native weeds. Recruit volunteers to assist in restoration activities.*
 - i. **Projected Hours:** 75
 - ii. **Estimated Outcome:** 32 restoration and assessment acres
- d. **Priority Project:** *Post fire restoration on the King Fire and Sand Fire burn areas. The overall objective of this projects are to begin the process of reversing the ecological, economic, environmental, aesthetic and social impacts of the King Fire. Specific objectives include: 1) treat private lands affected by the King Fire to reduce the potential for wild fire in the future by removing accumulated debris and dead trees; 2) conduct site preparation and planting to re-establish forest cover on the private lands; 3) increase potential carbon sequestration and achieve greenhouse gas emissions reduction through the reforestation of the burned area; 4) identify measures that may be required to protect watershed values and water quality in*

watersheds that are important sources of domestic water supply; and 5) utilize the project as an educational opportunity for informing others about community response to wild fire.

- i. **Projected Hours:** 515
- ii. **Estimated Outcome:** 2000 restoration acres

2. Watershed Education and Outreach

a. **Priority Project:** *Farm Day is an educational program aimed at teaching 3rd grade students throughout El Dorado County the importance of natural resources and local agriculture. The member will help coordinate the event and participate by presenting a watershed topic.*

- i. **Projected Hours:** 70
- ii. **Estimated Outcomes:** (Complete one of the following for this project)
 1. **Presentations** (Presentations and/or Service Learning projects of at least 30 minutes in which the member will be able to query participants with a pre and post test):
 2. **Outreach** (Educational Outreach in which members will be able to ask participants if the outreach conducted increased their level of understanding): 1100

b. **Priority Project:** *The annual S.A.G.E Map Contest educates students from all grade levels on the importance of their place in the watershed and emphasizes cartography. The member will assist in the implementation of this program, perform class presentations and coordinate the annual award ceremony.*

- i. **Projected Hours:** 40
- ii. **Estimated Outcomes:** (Complete one of the following for this project)
 1. **Presentations** (Presentations and/or Service Learning projects of at least 30 minutes in which the member will be able to query participants with a pre and post test):
 2. **Outreach** (Educational Outreach in which members will be able to ask participants if the outreach conducted increased their level of understanding): 600

c. **Priority Project:** *The "Discover your Watershed" tours takes community members on a tour of the watershed while emphasizing current issues and projects affecting the watershed. Members will coordinate and facilitate these tours by working with local stakeholders and the South Fork American River Watershed Group to identify potential sites. Advertise tours and coordinate logistics.*

- i. **Projected Hours:** 150
- ii. **Estimated Outcomes:** (Complete one of the following for this project)

1. **Presentations** (Presentations and/or Service Learning projects of at least 30 minutes in which the member will be able to query participants with a pre and post test): 60
 2. **Outreach** (Educational Outreach in which members will be able to ask participants if the outreach conducted increased their level of understanding):.
- d. **Priority Project:** *The Creek Signage program enhances the public's awareness of the watershed by identifying local creeks. The member will perform outreach to solicit additional adoptees. Survey potential locations using GIS and physical surveys.*
- i. **Projected Hours:** 100
 - ii. **Estimated Outcomes:** (Complete one of the following for this project)
 1. **Presentations** (Presentations and/or Service Learning projects of at least 30 minutes in which the member will be able to query participants with a pre and post test): *Replace this text with the number of people your member will present to with this project.*
 2. **Outreach** (Educational Outreach in which members will be able to ask participants if the outreach conducted increased their level of understanding): 150
- e. **Priority Project:** The member will work with a 6th grade classroom on an in-depth education project including classroom presentations, field data collection and hands-on restoration. *In addition the member will perform watershed education presentations to classrooms in all grade levels.*
- i. **Projected Hours:** 100
 - ii. **Estimated Outcomes:** (Complete one of the following for this project)
 1. **Presentations** (Presentations and/or Service Learning projects of at least 30 minutes in which the member will be able to query participants with a pre and post test): 80
 2. **Outreach** (Educational Outreach in which members will be able to ask participants if the outreach conducted increased their level of understanding):
- f. **Priority Project:** Watershed Education Summit
- i. **Projected Hours:** 40
 - ii. **Estimated Outcomes:** (Complete one of the following for this project)
 1. **Presentations** (Presentations and/or Service Learning projects of at least 30 minutes in which the member will be able to query participants with a pre and post test):

2. **Outreach** (Educational Outreach in which members will be able to ask participants if the outreach conducted increased their level of understanding): 80
- g. **Watershed Education Totals:**
 - i. **Total Projected Hours:** 500
 - ii. **Total Estimated Outcomes:**
 1. **Presentations:** 140
 2. **Outreach:** 1930
3. **Volunteer Recruitment and Support:**
 - a. **Priority Project:** *The Great Sierra River Cleanup is a statewide river cleanup event associated with the California Coastal Cleanup day. The member will coordinate and implement the annual event along with a few other cleanup events throughout the year.*
 - i. **Projected Hours:** 110
 - ii. **Estimated Outcomes:**
 1. **Number of Volunteers Recruited:** 120
 2. **Total # of Hours Served by Volunteers:** 480
 - b. **Priority Project:** *Gold Bug Park Restoration Project*
 - i. **Projected Hours:** 60
 - ii. **Estimated Outcomes:** (Complete one of the following for this project)
 1. **Number of Volunteers Recruited:** 120
 2. **Total # of Hours Served by Volunteers:** 2880
 - c. **Volunteer Recruitment and Support Totals:**
 - i. **Total Projected Hours:** 275
 - ii. **Total Estimated Outcomes:**
 1. **Number of Volunteers Recruited:** 265
 2. **Total # of Hours Served by Volunteers:** 4035
4. **Resource Attainment:** (Please note that members can complete no more than 170 hours of Resource Attainment Activities. Resource Attainment activities must raise money that goes directly to member service projects. Members may NOT raise general funds, write federal grants, or write grants to cover your site's cash match.)
 - a. **Priority Project:** *General non-federal grant research and writing to support unfunded projects in the member's service plan.*
 - i. **Projected Hours:** 140
 - ii. **Estimated Outcomes:**
 1. **Number of Donations (Grants, Services, Goods, etc):** *Will secure at least two non-federal grant applications.*
 2. **Dollar Amount of Donation:**

