



Position Description Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Position Title: *Restoration Coordinator*
Host Site: *South Yuba River Citizens League*
Site Supervisor: *Betsy Harbert, River Science Program Manager*
Contact: betsy@syrc.org, 530-265-5961 x 224

Service Commitment: SNAP AmeriCorps members are passionate and committed to the mission of the Sierra Nevada Alliance, SNAP and AmeriCorps. Members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve a nonprofit organization or public agency in the Sierra Nevada. The SNAP Term of Service is from mid-October 2017 – mid-September 2018 (exact dates TBD).

Position Location: *SYRCL's office is in Nevada City, CA – a lovely town and community in the Sierra foothills. Historic Nevada City is regarded as a cultural, artistic and environmental hub within the Sierra Nevada Range. Once the epicenter of the California Gold Rush, Nevada City—in proximity to the South Yuba River -- is undergoing a multi-decade renaissance as a model community pursuing ecological and economical sustainability through innovative green enterprises, neo-agrarian renewal and watershed restoration. All of our work is conducted in the beautiful and inspiring Yuba Watershed.*

Organization Description: *SYRCL is the leading voice for the protection and restoration of the Yuba River and greater Yuba Watershed. Founded in 1983 through a rural, grassroots campaign to defend the South Yuba River from proposed hydropower dams, SYRCL has developed into a vibrant community organization with over 3,500 members and volunteers based in Nevada City.*

Since achieving Wild and Scenic status for the South Yuba River in 1999, SYRCL has developed a variety of successful programs for inspiring environmental activism and supporting responsible watershed stewardship. These range from the Wild and Scenic Film Festival to a River Science Program with a large citizen component and strong standing in collaborative forums. Most recently, SYRCL launched the River Ambassadors Program, a volunteer-based initiative to reach out to Yuba River users about to keep the river clean, safe and healthy. River Ambassadors is a response to the uncertain future of management of the State Parks lands along the South Yuba River, and a request from State Parks to be supported by SYRCL's pool of volunteers. SYRCL is also involved in a variety of watershed restoration and protection initiatives.

SYRCL is the leading regional supporter for creating resilient human and natural communities throughout the greater Yuba River basin by restoring creeks and rivers, restoring wild salmon populations, and inspiring and organizing people – from the Yuba's source, to the sea.

Program Description: *SYRCL's Restoration Program fulfills our mission to "...restore the Yuba watershed" and is a key component of SYRCL's River Science Program. The River Science Program works to ask critical questions about the Yuba watershed and build a scientific foundation for restoration activities. In 2010, SYRCL completed a watershed assessment that is designed to inspire and provoke an innovative community-based approach to watershed coordination and habitat restoration, and articulates the restoration priorities in the Yuba Basin, as well as the organization principles for empowering watershed associations to take effective action.*

SYRCL's restoration program focuses on floodplain habitat restoration to improve habitat for salmon and steelhead populations, meadow restoration to improve biodiversity and upstream water storage and quality, and invasive species removal to improve forest and riparian health along the river corridor.

Restoration Program Priorities:

1. *Riparian Restoration Projects in the Lower Yuba River: Planting riparian hardwood cuttings along the lower Yuba River, secondary channel creation, and gravel augmentation for salmon habitat.*
2. *Invasive weed removal: Nevada County Scotch broom Challenge at SYRCL's adopted site, Hoyt's Crossing.*
3. *Meadow Restoration: Stream channel restoration, removal of small conifers, greenhouse gas monitoring, and invasive species removal to promote healthy meadows.*
4. *Great Yuba Cleanup – more than 500 volunteers cleaning up 35 river sites focusing on specific restoration projects including invasive weed removal at 5+ sites, all in one day!*

Position Description: *The Restoration Coordinator will provide a central role in implementing all of SYRCL's restoration projects, including those that include a high-level of citizen engagement. The work involves volunteer recruitment, training and coordination, research, data management, and collaboration with resource agencies and local expert naturalists. Projects expected for implementation in 2017-2018 include mountain meadow restoration and monitoring, invasive species removal, erosion control, and lower floodplain restoration monitoring. The Restoration Coordinator will provide central coordination to volunteers contributing to larger habitat restoration projects in the watershed, ranging from the riparian planting project on the lower Yuba River to meadows restoration on Tahoe National Forest. The Restoration Coordinator will develop final project details for implementation during the Greater Yuba River Cleanup and Restoration Day in September. Additionally, the Restoration Coordinator will provide support to resource procurement (such as equipment and donations) for priority restoration actions, and will also provide restoration education outreach and volunteer recruitment at a number of community gatherings.*

Required Qualifications:

A successful Restoration Coordinator should have the following qualifications:

- *Bachelor's degree in biological, natural resources, restoration/conservation or environmental sciences and/or equivalent experience*
- *Strong knowledge of terrestrial and aquatic ecological relationships and processes*
- *Passion to engage, coordinate, and educate volunteers on environmental topics and hands-on stewardship techniques in the field*
- *Good written and verbal communication skills*
- *Good leadership and team skills*
- *Ability to multi-task and prioritize*
- *Organized and attention to detail, especially with equipment management/ maintenance and data management*
- *Experience in biological fieldwork and comfortable to work outdoors in strenuous physical activity under diverse weather conditions, such as hiking with equipment, work during high temperatures for up to 8 hours, and use of field tools.*
- *Available to work occasional weekends and evenings*
- *Valid driver's license*
- *Personal vehicle for work use and reimbursement.*

Desired Qualifications:

Additional skills and experiences are:

- *Skills to identify flora and fauna, especially those of the northern Sierra Nevada*
- *Previous land stewardship and restoration experience*
- *Basic GIS skills*
- *Scientific study design, monitoring, and analysis skills*

Additional Benefits:

- *Participation in the 14th Annual Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival*
- *Rafting tours of the lower Yuba River with training as a Salmon Naturalist*
- *Networking among hundreds of community organizers and environmental professionals.*

Website: www.yubariver.org; www.yubashed.org