



Position Description

Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Position Title: Watershed Conservation Technician
Host Site: Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District
Site Supervisor: Stephanie Suess, Program Manager stephanie@tcrd.org
Contact: (209) 984-0500 stephanie@tcrd.org

Position Location: Sonora, Tuolumne County, CA.

Sonora is a small town in the Sierra Nevada foothills that was historically home to gold mining, incorporated in 1851, it was known as the “Queen of the Southern Mines.” The city’s population is approximately 4900 and the elevation is 1825ft. It is home to many recreational opportunities as it is only 70 miles from Yosemite National Park and even closer to the Stanislaus National Forest. Sonora is an easy drive to the Bay Area as well as the central coast, Tahoe and Reno. Tuolumne County is home to a variety of activities year around including farmer’s markets and concerts in the summer, skiing and other winter sports, as well as fishing, hiking, biking, etc.

Organization Description: The Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a non-regulatory Special District that was formed in 2005 to promote Natural Resource Conservation in Tuolumne County. We work with individuals, land owners, growers, ranchers, public agencies, non-profit organizations and corporations to accomplish our goals. The TCRCD’s mission is to identify and meet the natural resource conservation needs of all the people of Tuolumne County and its future generations by providing leadership through educational, technical and financial support for valuable, voluntary services and programs that promote conservation and sustainable agriculture, while maintaining our county’s rural heritage.

Program Description:

Small Parcel Storm Water Pollution Prevention and Landowner Stewardship Program:

The Project addresses site-specific nutrient, sediment, and pathogen discharges into the Stanislaus and Tuolumne River watersheds from small privately owned parcels. Includes education and outreach, public workshops, and demonstration projects.

Regional Water Conservation Program:

Implement water conservation activities, water use efficiency education and improvements, water demand response/control methods and alternative water source development programs in the Tuolumne-Stanislaus IRWM region. This program offers drought relief and long-term water savings in the form of a package of water conservation programs designed to improve water use efficiency throughout the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Region. Once implemented, the Program will save an estimated 186 acre-feet (AF) per year.

Stream Team:

Local water quality monitoring program utilizing volunteers to collect data on streams in Tuolumne County on a monthly basis. Monitoring equipment maintenance, volunteer organizing, and data management are the primary task associated with the program.

Position Description:

The Watershed Conservation Technician will serve as an integral educational member of the regional water conservation program and related outreach the Resource Conservation District will be involved in. This member will work along side trusted and experienced partners on the installation of multiple water efficiency projects and will fully coordinate two watershed restoration events. This position offers the ability to be involved in many collaborative relationships within the region to see water resources management from a hands on and planning perspective.

Required Qualifications:

- Strong written and verbal communication abilities
- Ability to work in field or on uneven surfaces for up to 8 hours in various weather conditions
- Adept at basic computer software programs (including Word, Excel, Google Apps, etc.)
- Must be able to lift 25 pounds
- Must possess a valid driver's license

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience in GIS/Mapping
- Experience in Water Quality Monitoring

Additional Benefits: This position provides an excellent opportunity for personal and professional development as the Americorps Member will work closely with a diverse group of stakeholders. The position is located in the Central Sierra Foothills near Yosemite and the Stanislaus National Forest, where there are ample recreational opportunities and several communities supportive of the program.

Website: www.tcrd.org

Additional links:

<https://youtu.be/CE1B7tdGCw0>

<http://tstan-irwma.org>

Member Service Plan



Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Host Site: Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District
Position Title: Watershed Conservation Technician
Designated Site Supervisor: Stephanie Suess, stephanie@tcrd.org
Term of Service: Mid-October 2016 – Mid-September 2017, exact dates TBA

Organizational Background: The Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a non-regulatory Special District that was formed in 2005 to promote Natural Resource Conservation in Tuolumne County. We work with individuals, land owners, growers, ranchers, public agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses to accomplish our goals. The TCRCD's mission is to identify and meet the natural resource conservation needs of all the people of Tuolumne County and its future generations by providing leadership through educational, technical and financial support for valuable, voluntary services and programs that promote conservation and sustainable agriculture, while maintaining our county's rural heritage.

Organizational/Program Goals 2016-17:

Small Parcel Storm Water Pollution Prevention and Landowner Stewardship Program:
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Create a data management system to display locally relevant and measured water quality data to inform local citizens on the health of major tributaries in our watershed.

Member Service Plan Overview and Outcomes:

- Assist with the planning and implementation of two local conservation demonstrations including rainwater harvesting, storm water capture and bio infiltration.
- Assist in the design and publishing of educational media on water conservation and land owner stewardship.

- Outreach to five schools within the region to assist with water conservation and watershed education.

Service Position Major Projects:

1. Watershed Restoration and Assessment:

a. Priority Project: Great Sierra River Clean Up

Member will plan and manage, in partnership with local agencies, the September 2017 volunteer event to clean up trash and invasive plants at a local river.

i. Projected Hours: 120

1. Estimated Acres Restored: 3

2. Acres Restored by Member (ONLY): .05

b. Priority Project: Invasive Species Removal

Member will recruit and work with volunteers within the district to remove invasive species including but not limited to Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus Ailtissima*)

i. Projected Hours: 160

1. Estimated Acres Restored: 5

2. Acres Restored by Member (ONLY): 1

c. Priority Project: Water Conservation Assessment and Installation

Working with local schools, member will assist with the installation and site assessment for water conservation measures including rain tanks, grey water systems, rain gardens and storm water catchment systems.

i. Projected Hours: 380

1. Estimated Acres Restored: 5

2. Acres Restored by Member (ONLY): 1

d. Watershed Restoration and Assessment Totals:

i. Total Projected Hours: 660

ii. Total Estimated Acres Restored: 13

1. Total Member Acres Restored: 2.5

2. Watershed Education and Outreach

a. Priority Project: Mobile W.A.T.E.R Learning Lab Exhibition

Member will attend and conduct outreach at at least seven scheduled local events including county fairs and farm tours. The W.A.T.E.R Lab includes working demonstrations and information on water use efficiency measures including rainwater catchment, laundry to landscape, bioswales and grey water.

i. Projected Hours: 300

ii. Estimated Education 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

2. Outreach (Educational Outreach in which Members will be able to ask participants if the outreach conducted increased their level of understanding): 500

b. Priority Project: Watershed Conservation Media Development

Member will assist in the development and publishing of locally relevant watershed conservation media including short videos, info graphics, handouts, etc.

i. **Projected Hours: 100**

ii. **Estimated Education 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): **1**
2. **Outreach** (Educational Outreach in which Members will be able to ask participants if the outreach conducted increased their level of understanding): **15**

c. Watershed Education Totals:

i. **Total Projected Hours: 400**

ii. **Total Estimated Outcomes:**

1. **Presentations: 3**
2. **Outreach: 515**

3. Volunteer Recruitment and Support:**a. Priority Project: Stream Team**

Member will run a volunteer stream monitoring program on local tributaries. This includes calibrating and packaging all required monitoring equipment and working at least one weekend a month to provide support to volunteers. Member will download all monitoring logs and update a public data management system. Additional training, recruitment and support will be provided to volunteers as necessary.

i. **Projected Hours: 350**

ii. **Estimated Outcomes:**

1. **Number of Volunteers Recruited: 15**
2. **Total # of Hours Served by Volunteers: 600**

b. Priority Project: Reforestation Support

Member will assist the Sierra Region Project Coordinator with the Tuolumne River Trust in providing volunteer support during reforestation days on Stanislaus National Forest land in efforts to recover from the 2013 Rim Fire and the growing tree mortality within the central and southern Sierra.

i. **Projected Hours: 50**

ii. **Estimated Outcomes:** (Complete one of the following for this project)

1. **Number of Volunteers Recruited: 30**
2. **Total # of Hours Served by Volunteers: 400**

c. Priority Project: Invasive Species Removal

Member will recruit local volunteers within the district to remove invasive species including but not limited to Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus Ailtissima*)

i. **Projected Hours: 40**

ii. **Estimated Outcomes:** (Complete one of the following for this project)

1. **Number of Volunteers Recruited: 15**
2. **Total # of Hours Served by Volunteers: 160**

- d. **Volunteer Recruitment and Support Totals:**
 - i. **Total Projected Hours: 440**
 - ii. **Total Estimated Outcomes:**
 - 1. **Number of Volunteers Recruited: 60**
 - 2. **Total # of Hours Served by Volunteers: 1,160**
- 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:** Member will secure donations for supplies related to Great Sierra River Cleanup including trash drop off, water, snacks, trash bags and promotional materials.
 - i. **Projected Hours: 10**
 - ii. **Estimated Outcomes:**
 - 1. **Number of Donations (Grants, Services, Goods, etc): 10**
 - 2. **Dollar Amount of Donation: \$500**
 - b. **Resource Attainment Totals:**
 - i. **Total Projected Hours: 10**
 - ii. **Total Estimated Outcomes:**
 - 1. **Number of Donations: 10**
 - 2. **# of Hours Served by Volunteers:**
- 5. **Member Training and Development:** (Please note that Members can complete no more than 340 hours of training.)
 - a. **SNAP Specific Trainings:** Required SNAP Member Orientation, Spring Training and Service Projects, Fall Training and Sierra Nevada Alliance Annual Conference, and Graduation
 - i. **Projected Hours: 130 Hours**
 - b. **Site Specific Orientation:** Member will receive an introduction to RCDs, local water issues and land management practices. Member will also attend one RCD board meeting.
 - i. **Projected Hours: 10**
 - c. **Site Specific Training:** Member will receive comprehensive training in water quality monitoring protocol, data management and equipment calibration for Stream Team.
 - i. **Projected Hours: 30**
 - d. **Site Specific Training:** Member will learn to set up, calibrate, and provide a packaged watershed education lesson using the augmented reality sandbox.
 - i. **Projected Hours: 20**
 - e. **Member Training and Development Totals:**
 - i. **Total Projected Hours: 190**
- 6. **Total Hours: 1,700**
- 7. **Percentage Totals:**

- a. **Watershed Restoration and Assessment: 38%**
- b. **Watershed Education and Outreach: 24%**
- c. **Volunteer Recruitment and Support: 26%**
- d. **Resource Attainment: 1%**
- e. **Member Training and Development: 11%**