



Member Service Plan Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Host Site: Tuolumne River Trust

Position Title: Forest Health Specialist

Designated Site Supervisor: Sierra Supervisor, Headwaters Program Director, supe@tuolumne.org

Term of Service: April 5 – September 18, 2021

Organizational Background:

The Tuolumne River Trust is located in the Sierra Nevada, and has core mission of protecting and restoring the Tuolumne River and its watershed for future and present generations. Not only does the Tuolumne River provide ample recreational opportunities such as whitewater rafting, but it also supplies the drinking water for 2.6 million people in the San Francisco Bay Area, hydroelectric power for much of Northern California, and irrigation for 200,000 acres of Central Valley farmland. This watershed was severely impacted by the 257,000-acre Rim Fire in 2013, and a subsequent widespread tree mortality epidemic. The Tuolumne River Trust has more than \$12 million in funding from agencies such as the Wildlife Conservation Board, the California Department of Conservation, and Cal FIRE to help restore watersheds and increase resiliency within the Sierra Nevada. A majority of our work is currently focused in the footprint of the 257,000 Rim Fire of 2013, but new projects continue to occur across the landscape. We work closely with volunteer groups, schools, and community members to help ensure an engaged and collaborative approach to landscape restoration is undertaken.

Organizational/Program Goals 2020-21:

Our work at the Tuolumne River Trust is dynamic and fluid. Large-scale landscape restoration projects are a given, but new opportunities arise often. SNAPs at the Trust should expect to find the full gamut of environmental work, and are encouraged to find projects that help them grow and prepare for their next steps. Some expected goals include:

- Engagement in the planning and implementation of landscape restoration projects. These projects include reforestation, fuels reduction treatments, meadow restoration, using UAV drone systems to monitor treatments, and more. Individual tasks under these projects may range from flagging boundaries to planting trees to leading volunteer groups from local and visiting schools, and a variety of faith-based, military, corporate and national service organizations such as the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps.
- SNAPs at the Tuolumne River Trust have a history of leading educational and guided hikes though the Upper Tuolumne and Upper Stanislaus Watersheds. Whether these hikes are wildflower hikes, night hikes, or simply hikes designed to encourage recreation within the Sierra Nevada, SNAPs may have opportunity to work with organizations such as the Central Sierra Environmental Research Center, the Sierra Club, and other partners to make these events happen.
- “In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught.” Outreach and educational efforts have been a key component of many SNAP terms at the Trust. SNAPs should have a joy for teaching others about the environment, and be prepared to work in classrooms to teach youth about the environment.

Member Service Plan Overview and Outcomes:

The Forest Health Specialists will work on a variety of projects related to the Trust's programs in wildfire recovery and forest health. Working in close partnership with the Stanislaus National Forest, members will lead restoration efforts in areas impacted by the 257,000-acre Rim Fire that occurred in the Central Sierra region in the fall of 2013. This will include taking a lead role on a variety of projects related to reforestation, meadow restoration, wildlife surveys, UAV drone surveys, GIS technical assistance, monitoring, invasive weed removal, native seed collection, trail rehabilitation, and laying out units for forest health treatments. The members will also participate extensively in outreach and education efforts by developing and leading free guided interpretive hikes for the public on behalf of the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, provide presentations to local schools and community groups on topics related to watershed health and water efficiency, and head planning efforts for the Tuolumne River Jamboree outdoor outings and concert event.

Service Position Major Projects:

1. Watershed Restoration and Assessment:

- a. Priority Project:** The 2013 Rim Fire burned 257,000 acres within the Tuolumne River Watershed. The Tuolumne River Trust, along with its sister organization, the Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions forest collaborative, are key players in restoring this landscape in close partnership with the Stanislaus National Forest. SNAPs will engage in activities related to reforestation, meadow restoration, wildlife surveys, UAV drone surveys, GIS technical assistance, monitoring, invasive weed removal, native seed collection, trail rehabilitation, and laying out units for forest health treatments.

- i. Projected Hours:** 540 hours

- ii. Estimated Acres Restored:** 1,000

- 1. Acres Restored by Member (ONLY):** 15

2. Environmental Education

- a. Priority Project:** Working in partnership with Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, members will develop and lead guided interpretive hikes in the Tuolumne River watershed. Members may also help to write newsletter articles about issues related to forest and watershed health, and participate in educating local youth about the dangers of tobacco usage. (Note that due to COVID-19, this project description may change and rely on virtual presentations and webinars).

- i. Projected Hours:** 100

- ii. Estimated Education Outcomes:**

- 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): 200

3. Volunteer Recruitment and Support:

- a. Priority Project:** Members will help lead recruitment for volunteers, which they will then lead in the field. This recruitment will consist primarily of site visits, attending community meetings, and tabling at relevant events.

- i. Projected Hours:** 50

- ii. Estimated Outcomes:**

- 1. Number of Volunteers Recruited:** 50

- 2. Total # of Hours Served by Volunteers:** 500

- 4. Resource Attainment:** (Please note that Members can complete no more than 90 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:** Fundraising for the Tuolumne River Jamboree. Planning efforts for the Tuolumne River Jamboree were begun by a 2019-2020 SNAP, but had to be postponed due to COVID-19. SNAPs may be involved in a 2021 Jamboree, including raising direct funds for this outdoor outings and concert event through soliciting sponsorships and donations, as well a serving as support staff during fundraiser events.
 - i. Projected Hours:** 60
 - ii. Estimated Outcomes:**
 - 1. Number of Donations (Grants, Services, Goods, etc):** N/A
 - 2. Dollar Amount of Donation:** \$1,000
- 5. Green Jobs Training and Member Development:** (Please note that Members can complete no more than 180 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:** 75 Hours
 - b. Site Specific Orientation:** Members will receive training in the history of the Trust and its role in wildfire recovery and water conservation efforts by the Executive Director and the Site Supervisor. SNAPs will also regularly attend stakeholder and project planning meetings and will have access to trainings held by the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club.
 - i. Projected Hours:** 25
 - c. Site Specific Training:** Program partner trainings, provided by partners such as the U.S. Forest Service, will provide SNAPs with the necessary skills to supervise field projects.
 - i. Projected Hours:** 25
 - d. Site Specific Training:** Member specific training, designed to help bring fulfillment and growth to individual SNAPs will be provided. Possible topics include UAV drone operations, grant writing, GIS technology, lesson planning, and more.
 - i. Projected Hours:** 25
 - e. Member Training and Development Totals:**
 - i. Total Projected Hours:** 150

- 6. Total Hours:** 900
- 7. Member- driven projects based on individual interests and skills:** 100 (will be nested within major project(s)).
- 8. Percentage Totals:**
 - a. Watershed Restoration and Assessment:** 60%
 - b. Watershed Education and Outreach:** 11%
 - c. Volunteer Recruitment and Support:** 5.6%
 - d. Resource Attainment:** 6.7%
 - e. Member Training and Development:** 16.7%
 - f. Member-driven Projects:** 11% (nested within major projects above).