



Position Description Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Position Title: *Restoration Coordinator*
Host Site: *South Yuba River Citizens League*
Site Supervisor: *Alecia Weisman, Headwaters Science Program Director*
Contact: *alecia@yubariver.org 530.265.5961 ext 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 early-November 2023 – late-September 2024 (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 River 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 Watershed 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 and has been growing its education reach in classrooms year-round, on the river through rafting fieldtrips in the fall, and in theatres during the film festival.

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 Watershed Science Department is comprised of a number of restoration and project monitoring efforts throughout the Yuba River Watershed. The department includes an increasing number of restoration projects that require monitoring and assessment. SYRCL works with a variety of project

partners to develop, implement, and monitor restoration projects throughout the Yuba River Watershed. Projects include large-scale floodplain rehabilitation, construction, and riparian planting projects in the lower Yuba River, water quality monitoring throughout the watershed, and a variety of meadow restoration projects. In addition to all aspects of project design and implementation, SYRCL works with project partners to design academically rigorous research projects associated with restoration projects to quantify the benefits of restoration actions and inform future restoration and management decisions.

Restoration Program Priorities:

1. Riparian Restoration Projects in the Lower Yuba River: Planting riparian willow and hardwood cuttings along the lower Yuba River, secondary channel creation, and gravel augmentation for salmon habitat.
2. Invasive weed removal: Scotch broom Challenge at various sites on the Yuba River.
3. Meadow Restoration: Stream channel restoration, removal of small conifers, native meadow vegetation monitoring, planting of native willow stakes, hosting volunteer days, 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 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 assist SYRCL staff with pre- and post- restoration project monitoring in a variety of restoration contexts throughout the Yuba Watershed, including floodplain restoration projects in the lower Yuba, and meadow restoration and forest health projects in the Upper Watershed. Monitoring tasks are likely to include turbidity monitoring, riparian and meadow vegetation identification and surveys, riparian vegetation survivorship and growth measurement, hydrologic monitoring, snorkel fish and bug surveys, marking planting locations, and meadow fringe conifer and aspen transects.

In addition to the specific field work component, all monitoring tasks will require recording data in digital formats and/or on paper. The Restoration Coordinator will work with project managers to QA/QC the data. They will also work closely with project partners to ensure high quality, academically rigorous data.

The Restoration Coordinator will also have the opportunity to work with project managers to analyze data, generate graphics, and write reports.

Lastly the Restoration Coordinator will provide restoration education outreach and volunteer recruitment at a number of community gatherings and will assist in our field science high school education meadow research programs, YOLO and Earthwatch.

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 inclement temperatures for up to 10 hours, and use of field tools.
- Willingness to do office work, data entry, and analysis.
- 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, Excel, and RStudio skills.
- Scientific study design, monitoring, and analysis skills.

Additional Benefits:

- Participation in the 22nd 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.RiverDB.org

All Full-Time members qualify for:

- \$2,318.18 stipend per month
- Standard health, dental, and vision insurance
- Student loan forbearance during service term
- CA subsidized Childcare stipends are available.
- Professional Environmental experience and networking
- AmeriCorps members that successfully complete a service term will earn an education award; respective amounts are listed below.
- \$500 Training Support Budget
- Education Award Full Time 1700 hours \$10,000.0