



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Position Description Sierra Corps Forestry Fellowship

Position Title: Forest Health Fellow

Host Site: South Yuba River Citizens League

Site Supervisor: Allison Thomson & Andrew Salmon, Forest Health Watershed Coordinators

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Work Commitment: Sierra Corps Fellows are passionate and committed to the mission of the Sierra Nevada Alliance and Sierra Corps. Fellows make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve a nonprofit organization or public agency in the Sierra Nevada. **The Sierra Corps Fellowship is from Winter 2019 – Fall 2020. Time Commitment: 1,700 hours total, approximately 40 hours per week.**

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 Forest Health Program fulfills our mission to “...restore the Yuba River 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 Forest Health Program focuses on improving forest health and resilience, as well as implementing an economically viable and environmentally sustainable forest products industry in the Yuba River watershed.

Position Description: The Forest Health Fellow will work to improve forest and community health and resilience in the Yuba River Watershed. The Forest Health Fellow will play an integral role in implementing community stakeholder engagement by representing SYRCL at stakeholder meetings and community events and coordinating meetings and materials in support of the development of the new watershed-wide Yuba Watershed Forest Collaborative. In helping develop the YWFC, the Fellow will be shaping the future of the Yuba River Watershed.

The Fellow will work with SYRCL staff and project partners to collect data and monitor whether forest health projects are providing benefits to water supply, carbon sequestration, habitat, and other co-benefits. The Fellow will assist in field data collection and monitoring as necessary. The monitoring projects implemented by the Fellow will play an integral role in informing future forest health projects across the watershed and the Sierras.

The Fellow will also aid in developing a sustainable forest products industry to support jobs and resources to grow a sustainable and healthy rural community. The Fellow will work closely with SYRCL staff and stakeholders to review existing assessments and studies that explore the feasibility of wood products business opportunities and markets to identify business opportunities suited to the FBBC. In the implementation phase, the Fellow will assist potential new businesses in developing sustainable business plans and obtaining required permitting. This work will be crucial to implementing and promoting a sustainable forest products industry in the Yuba River Watershed.

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Forestry, Environmental Science, or other related field OR at least 2 years of forestry vocational training and education
- At least 1 year of experience with forest health monitoring and assessment
- At least 2 years combined experience in:
 - forest health monitoring and assessment
 - conservation planning
 - project management
 - environmental analysis and research
- Strong interpersonal skills and experience organizing and motivating people
- Strong knowledge of terrestrial and aquatic ecological relationships and processes

- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Good leadership and team skills
- Ability to multi-task and prioritize
- Organized and attention to detail
- Available to work occasional weekends and evenings
- Valid driver's license
- Personal vehicle available for work assignments with reimbursement

Desired Qualifications:

- Knowledge of CEQA/NEPA regulations and documentation
- Strong desire to work in a forest health related career, ideally in the Sierra
- Passion for conservation of the Sierra
- Basic GIS skills
- Previous land stewardship and restoration experience

Additional Benefits:

- Participation in the 18th 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