



## Position Description

### Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

**Position Title:** River Assessment and Restoration Assistant  
**Host Site:** American Rivers  
**Site Supervisor:** Julie Fair  
**Contact:** 530.478.0206 Ext. 206, [jfair@americanrivers.org](mailto:jfair@americanrivers.org)

**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 2018 – mid-September 2019 (exact dates TBD).

**Position Location:** Nevada City, CA. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin office of American Rivers is located in Nevada City, a beautiful and historic foothill community. In addition to being a well-preserved historic mining town, it is a vibrant, thriving community, and entertainment hub of the Sierra Nevada foothills. At the gateway to the Tahoe National Forest, Nevada City offers fantastic hiking, road and mountain biking, and water recreation, not to mention world class skiing and snowboarding just an hour's drive away. The Wild and Scenic South Yuba River is just minutes outside of town and offers great hiking in the winter and amazing swimming holes in the summer.

**Organization Description:** American Rivers is the leading organization working to protect and restore the nation's rivers and streams. Rivers connect us to each other, nature, and future generations. Since 1973, American Rivers has fought to preserve these connections, helping protect and restore more than 150,000 miles of rivers through advocacy efforts, on-the-ground projects, and the annual release of America's Most Endangered River®. Headquartered in Washington, DC, American Rivers has offices across the country and more than 100,000 supporters, members, and volunteers nationwide.

American Rivers' Sacramento-San Joaquin (SSJ) Basin (California) staff has been at the forefront of major river restoration and protection efforts including the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, the San Joaquin River restoration program, restoration of headwater meadows in the Sierra Nevada, the historic Klamath River agreement to remove four large dams on one of the Pacific coasts most important salmon rivers, and the integration of river ecology in the redesign of California's flood control system. Through our Regional Office in Nevada City, we have begun to address a number of technical, outreach, institutional, and communication needs faced by the river conservation community. American Rivers works closely with many conservation and recreation groups in California to restore rivers and meadows that have been harmed by hydropower dams, excessive diversions, poor water quality, fish passage barriers and other ills.

**Program Description:** The 2018- 2019 River Assessment and Restoration Assistant will work closely with the Headwater Conservation team in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of a range of projects focusing on rivers and watersheds. The member will also work closely with staff and AmeriCorps members at the South Yuba River Citizen's League (SYRCL) on a few of their nearby monitoring and restoration projects. Member service projects in the Sierra will include:

- Sierra Meadow Assessment and Prioritization for Restoration including
  - Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
  - Carson, American, Truckee, Tuolumne, and Pine Creek watersheds
- Sierra Meadow Restoration and Monitoring including
  - Monitoring and Restoration of Yuba Meadows
  - Faith Valley Meadow Restoration
  - Monitoring Log Meadow
  - Monitoring of American meadows
  - Restoration of Priority Meadows in the Walker and Pine Creek Watersheds
- Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management in the Bear River Watershed
- Forest Health and Road Management
- Dams and Fish Passage Barriers
- Outreach for American Rivers California Regional Office

**Position Description:** The River Assessment and Restoration Assistant will gain a variety of project management, restoration, assessment and outreach skills and experience on a diversity of projects at American Rivers. Assessment skills will include field work as well as desk-top methods. Field assessment will include vegetation, groundwater, hydrology, water quality, geomorphology/topographical surveys, and other biological assessments conducted in Sierra streams and high-elevation meadows. Desktop assessment will include GIS analysis, literature reviews, and research on best management practices. The member will assist with field monitoring and with data analysis, presentation and writing.

The member will gain experience with a variety of watershed restoration, protection and outreach projects. Our meadow restoration projects are at multiple stages of implementation, from initial assessment and prioritization to construction, and the AmeriCorps member will assist with and gain exposure to each phase of restoration. Green infrastructure projects will include experience with stormwater management systems that function to reduce runoff, erosion, and contamination of surface water, as well as help prevent flooding. The member will be involved in monitoring, design and outreach, as well as strategies for scaling up this work so the technologies are broadly adopted in the Sierra region. American Rivers' salmon restoration and barrier removal projects will involve the member in stakeholder outreach, strategy and education. The forest health and road management work will involve developing priority sites for road repairs and decommissioning to reduce road-related erosion that impacts the local watershed. The AmeriCorps member will also help with outreach for the American Rivers' SSJ Basin office working with staff in the SSJ and national office to develop outreach materials specific to river and watershed conservation in California.

The AmeriCorps member will be encouraged to take on leadership of one or more projects with the goal of gaining in-depth experience in restoration project management and implementation. The particular focus project(s) will be decided upon once the member has more knowledge of American Rivers' program areas and it becomes clear where enthusiasm, aptitude and need overlap best.

**Required Qualifications:**

- B.S. in Environmental Sciences, Natural Resources/Planning, Geomorphology, or related field
- Study or interest in river science
- Experience in field studies and stream sampling
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Interest in social networking, blogging, and web communication
- Knowledge of GIS software
- Interest in/ability to participate in multi-day trips in the field, including camping

**Additional Benefits:** American Rivers is a national nonprofit organization and you would be working in the California office, in Nevada City. At American Rivers, your Sierra work will always be placed in the larger context of what's happening in river conservation nationwide. We are serious about the professional development of our SNAP members, and all of our SNAP alumni have gone on to either government or nonprofit environmental work or graduate school. Office culture is fun and social (picnics, river trips) and also professional (collared shirts). Field work is concentrated in the summer in high alpine meadows and river headwaters; it will likely be a smaller component of your time than at some other SNAP sites. Nevada City is a small, vibrant foothill town with an active local foods movement, great access to whitewater, biking, hiking, etc. and four SNAP host sites.

**Website:** [americanrivers.org](http://americanrivers.org)