

# Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP)

*'Serving the Sierra'*



California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network  
Monthly Webinar, November 4, 2010



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

*Keeping light in the range.*

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# AmeriCorps

- AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs.
- Each year tens of thousands of Americans serve to meet our country's critical needs.
- AmeriCorps focuses on education, public safety, health, and the environment.
- AmeriCorps members serve with more than 4,000 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based and community organizations.





# AmeriCorps

Rooted in America's Tradition of Service

★ 1933: Civilian Conservation Corps



★ 1961: Peace Corps



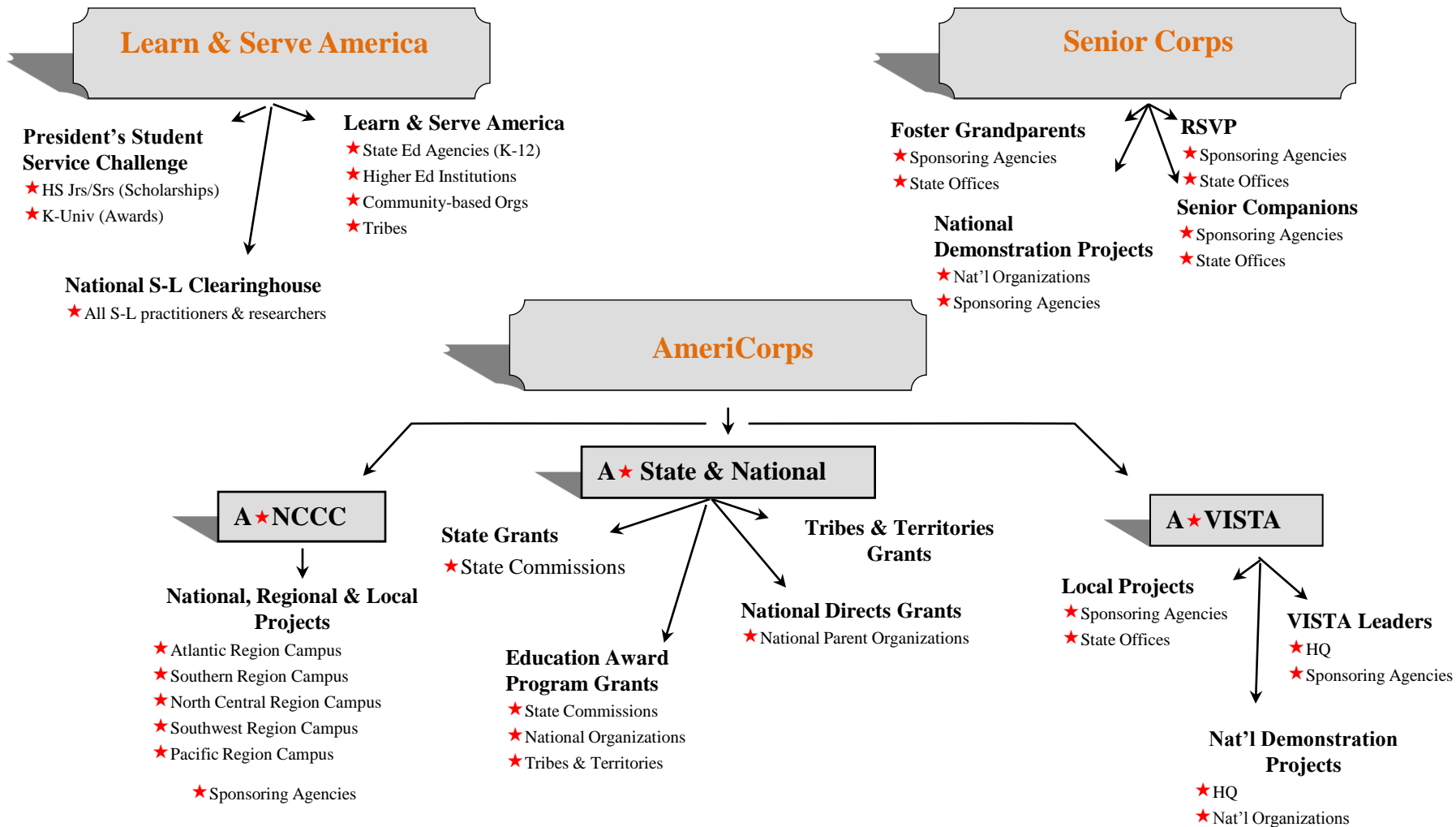
★ 1964: VISTA



★ 1994: AmeriCorps



# National Service Programs





# Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP)

A person wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, an orange safety vest, and a grey baseball cap is standing in a shallow, marshy area with tall green grasses. The person is looking towards a vast landscape of rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The mountains in the background have patches of snow on their upper slopes.

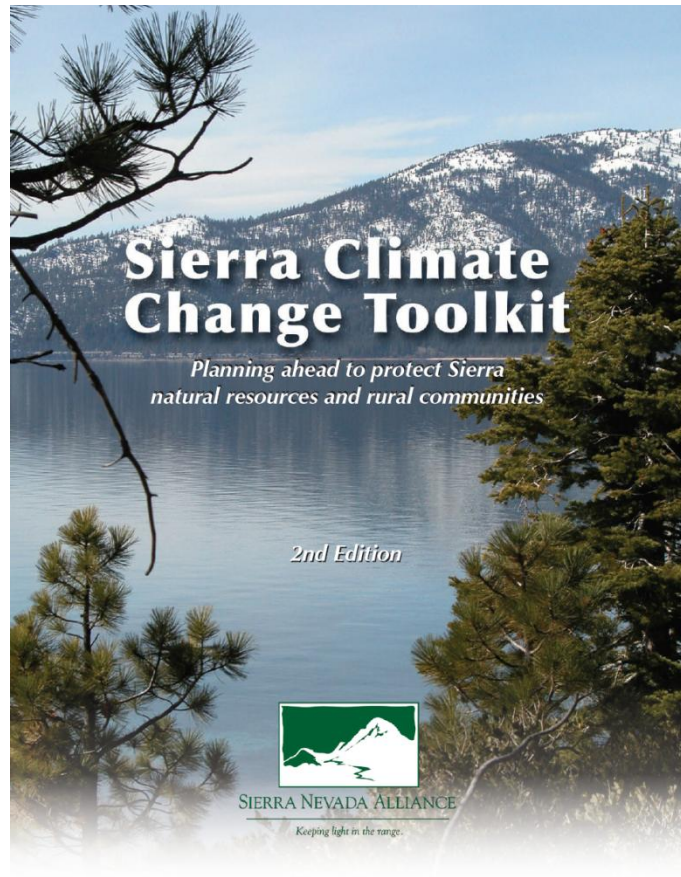
Founded in 2007 and directed and administered by the Sierra Nevada Alliance, the **Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership's (SNAP)** mission is to assess and restore impaired watershed habitats and to increase community stewardship of Sierra Nevada watersheds through education and volunteerism.



# The Sierra Nevada Alliance

SNAP is an AmeriCorps program administered by the **Sierra Nevada Alliance** as part of its Member Group Support Program.

Since 1993, the Sierra Nevada Alliance has been protecting and restoring Sierra land, water, wildlife, and communities.



## Programs of the Sierra Nevada Alliance

- Regional Climate Change Program
- Sustainable Sierra Communities Program
- Member Group Support Program



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# SNAP Funding Flow Chart

Corporation for Community and National Service (CNCS)



California Volunteers



Sierra Nevada Alliance & SNAP



16-21 SNAP Host Sites



27 SNAP Members



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# SNAP Program Design



## 27 Full time members

- Serve 1,700 hours (40hrs/week)
- January through November

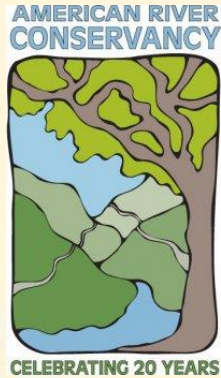
## 12-17 Host Sites Each year

- Provide the day to day supervision and mentorship
- Supply a cash match to SNAP to help pay for member costs
- Reapply annually

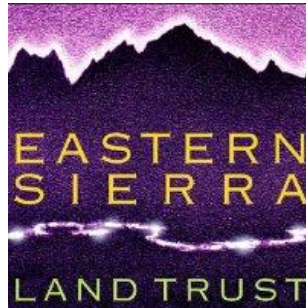
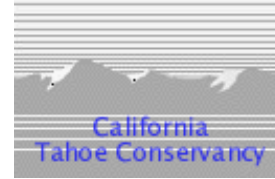




# Partners and Locations



**American Rivers**  
*Thriving By Nature*





# SNAP Members

- Highly motivated and skilled
- Come from throughout California and across the country
- College graduates, some with master's degrees
- Most have experience volunteer or interning in their local communities
- Passionate about the environment and making a difference
- Many are a few years out of college and looking for their next step





# Member Benefits

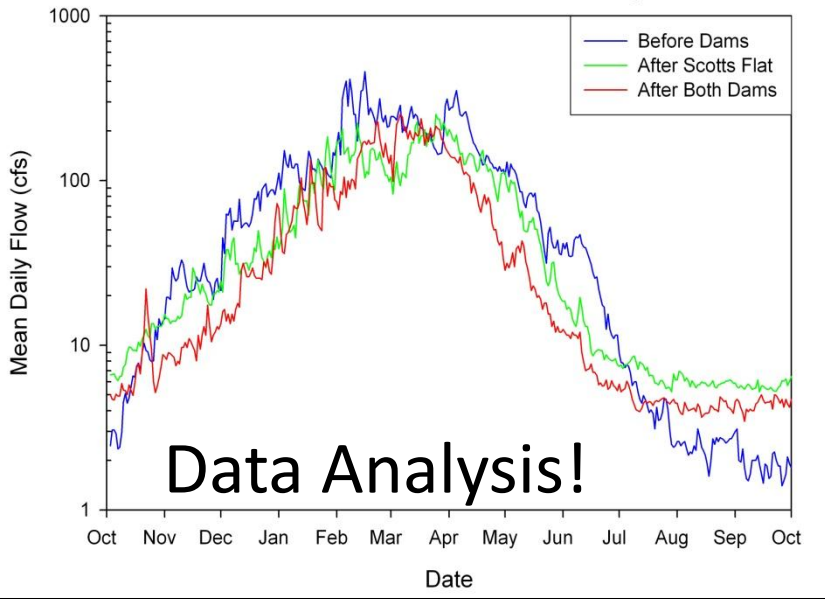
## Member Benefits:

- Living stipend
- Health insurance
- Education award upon successful completion of their term of service
- Up to 340 hours to training
- Real world experience with careers in resource management and environmental education and outreach





Deer Creek Flows: Median Years Comparison



# Watershed Restoration And Assessment





# Watershed Restoration and Assessment Projects and Results:

Types of SNAP watershed Restoration Projects include:

- Invasive Species Removal
- Erosion Control Projects
- Stream bank stabilization projects
- OHV road decommissioning
- Cattle exclusion projects
- Campground inventories and dismantling
- Pre and post project water quality monitoring
- Storm sampling, and
- Fuels Reduction

From 2007 to August of 2010 the SNAP program has **restored over 6,488 acres of critically important Sierra Watershed** and monitored over 700 sites in the Sierra for a wide array of parameters.






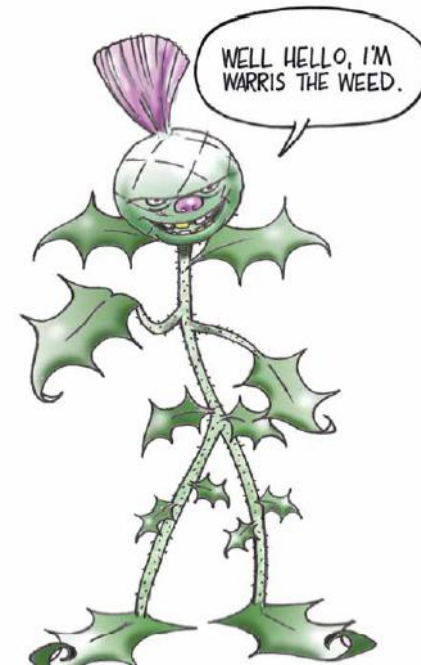
# Watershed Education and Outreach



A Guide to the Identification of Common Aquatic Benthic Macroinvertebrate Families of California and Western North America



 Friends of Deer Creek



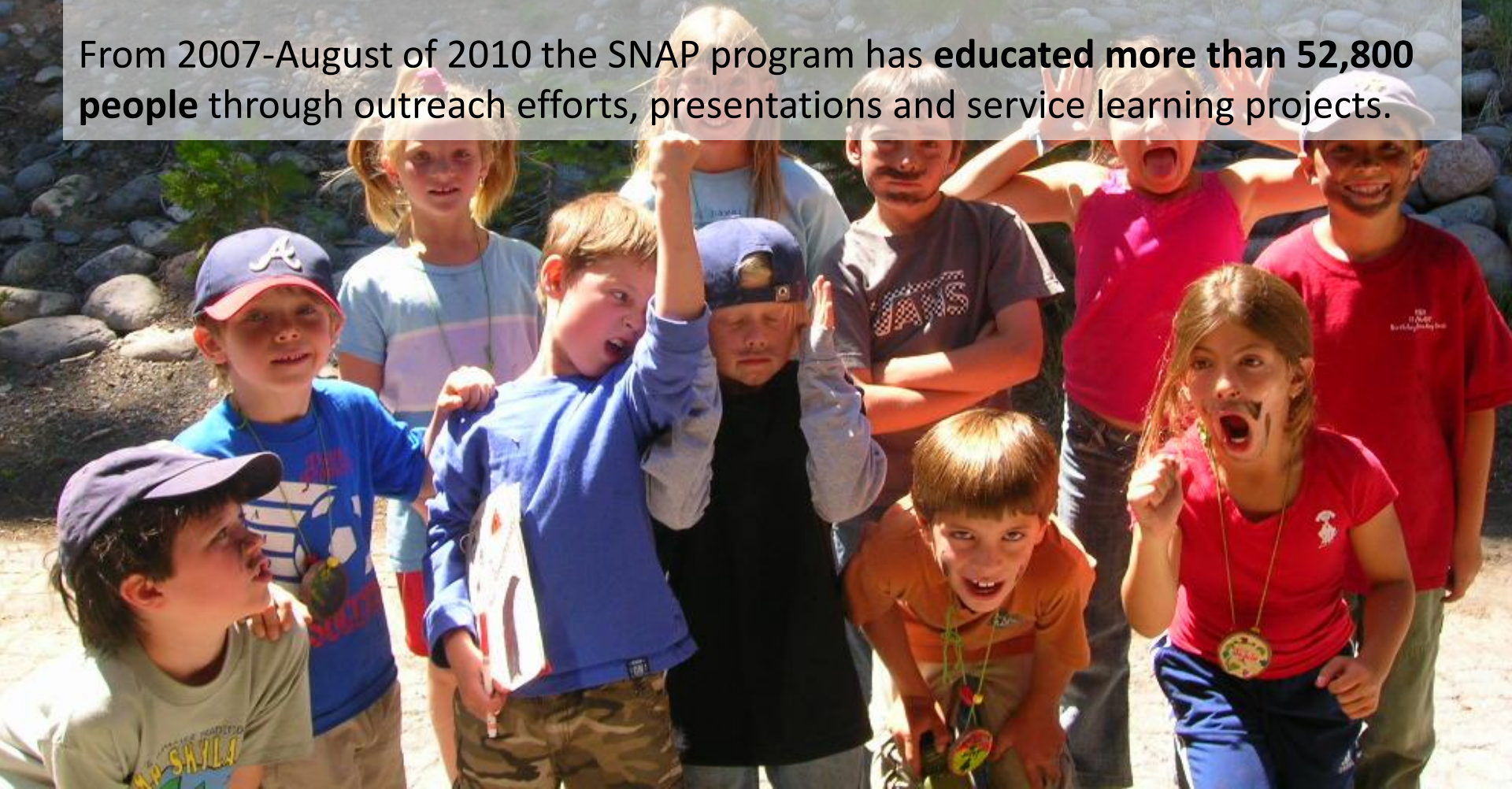


# Education and Outreach Results

Types of SNAP Education and Outreach Projects include:

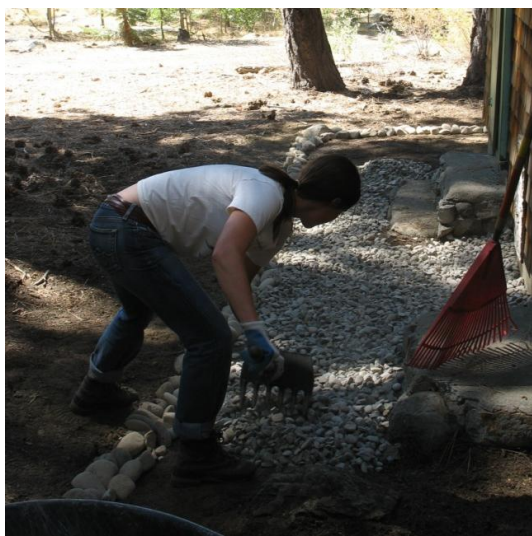
- Trout in the Classroom projects
- Climate change presentations
- Immersed in the Wild

From 2007-August of 2010 the SNAP program has **educated more than 52,800 people** through outreach efforts, presentations and service learning projects.





# Volunteer Recruitment and Support





# Volunteer Recruitment and Support

Volunteer Recruitment and Support Projects:

- Monthly water quality monitoring projects
- River clean ups
- Restoration projects
- Tree planting

From 2007 to August of 2010 the SNAP program has **recruited more than 5,230 volunteers** to complete service projects in their local watershed.



# Resource Attainment

Member Resource Attainment Activities:

- Business donations for member service events
- Writing a grant for a member's restoration project

From 2007-August of 2010 SNAP members have received 68 donations totaling \$27,399 for their service projects.





# Member Training

## Four Trainings per year:

- January Training and Orientation
- Spring training
- Sierra Nevada Alliance Annual Conference
- SNAP Graduation

## Topics:

- Sierra Nevada Natural History
- Water quality monitoring
- Working with Volunteers
- Project management





# SNAP Accomplishments

Since 2007 the SNAP program has recruited 92 individuals to Serve the Sierra.

Members have served at twenty-seven different conservation organizations and agencies.

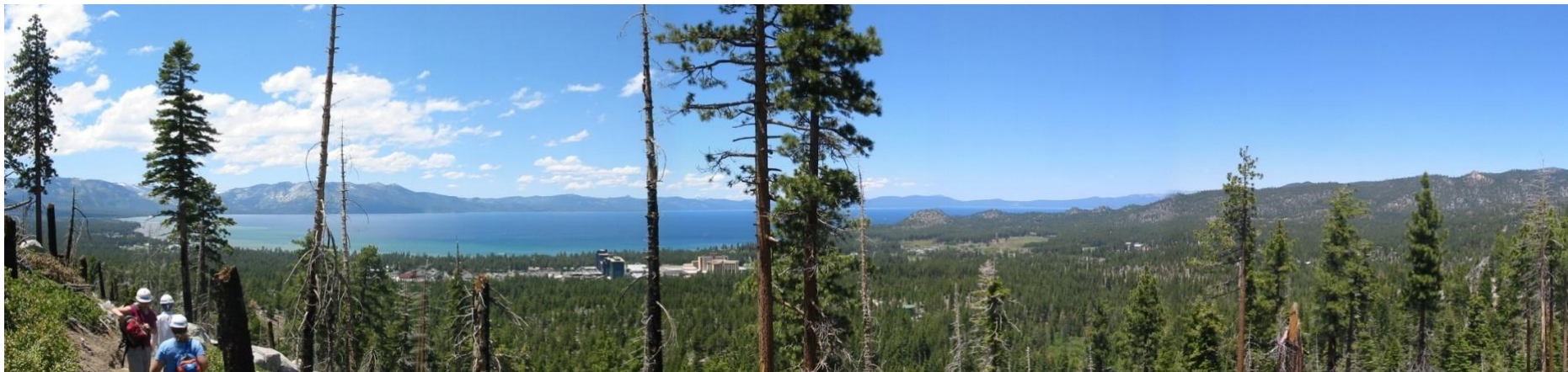




# Program Challenges



- Funding
- Reporting
- Performance Measures
- Monitoring/Assessment vs. Restoration





# Opportunities with AmeriCorps

- Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act
  - Signed April 21, 2009
  - Authorizes and Expands national service programs administered by CNCS
  - 75,000-250,000 per year by 2017
- VISTA
- AmeriCorps





# Partnering with SNAP



For organizations serving Sierra Watersheds, SNAP holds a competitive application process each year to decide where our 27 AmeriCorps Members will be placed.

Requests for Applications are available in June.



# Questions?





# For More Information

- Morgan Fessler, SNAP Program Director
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- Sierra Nevada Alliance
  - [www.sierranevadaalliance.org](http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org)
- CaliforniaVolunteers
  - [www.californiavolunteers.org](http://www.californiavolunteers.org)
- Corporation For Community and National Service
  - [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)
- AmeriCorps
  - [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)

