

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS**Region One – Fortuna Center****Watershed Stewards Project**

1455-C Sandy Prairie Ct., Fortuna, CA 95540

(707) 725-8601 FAX (707) 725-8602

www.ccc.ca.gov/go/wsp

WATERSHED STEWARDS PROJECT (WSP)

OVERVIEW

WSP is a program of the California Conservation Corps. The program's mission is to conserve, restore, and enhance anadromous watersheds for future generations by linking education with high quality scientific practices. For the past 20 years, WSP has provided partners and young people the opportunity to improve monitoring and evaluation of watersheds by placing qualified participants with organizations throughout the state. We hope to expand the WSP to other related areas of watershed management, including water quality monitoring, water conservation, and storm water management. WSP has partnered with various federal, state, county, tribal, and non-profit organizations and worked together to revitalize watersheds inhabited by endangered and threatened anadromous fish species throughout California.

WSP addresses watershed and fish habitat restoration needs through the implementation of a four-part strategy: watershed protection and recovery, watershed education, community outreach, and professional development of future natural resource professionals. Each of WSP's placement sites engages members in these service activities.

WSP members are recruited annually from across the country and must meet the minimum requirements of the program to be considered for placement. Minimum requirements include being 21-29 years old and having either earned a degree in a natural resource related field or having six months relevant field experience. WSP is a highly competitive program. Last year, over 400 applicants were screened to ensure WSP members were the quality hires our partners need and expect. The recruitment and placement process enables WSP's partners to work with highly qualified potential hires without a long-term hire commitment.

WSP ACCOMPLISHMENTS (1994-2013):

- Inventoried over **34,504** miles through stream, riparian and upslope surveys
- Generated over **2,620** scientific reports and databases
- Developed over **1,600** watershed restoration projects
- Instructed over **40,573** students on salmon lifecycles and watershed processes
- Provided outreach to over **237,174** students and community members
- Engaged more than **16,995** community volunteers in hands-on restoration projects

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CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF WSP MEMBERS PLACED AT WATER BOARDS

- Assistance with State Water Board (SWAMP) monitoring
- Expansion of GIS mapping, watershed inventory, and assessments
- Wetland environments data collection
- Assessing restoration project performance
- Anadromous fish population surveys
- Hydrology data collection



WSP Annual Performance Measures

Watershed Protection and Recovery:	1,850 stream, riparian and upslope miles will be assessed, monitored and/or restored
Watershed Education:	1,000 K-12 students will receive a series of <i>Real Science</i> watershed and salmonid education and 70% will increase their knowledge of watershed processes by at least 20%
Community Outreach:	7,400 community members will receive outreach and educational opportunities
Volunteer Recruitment:	630 community volunteers will participate in hands-on watershed restoration projects
Professional Development:	44 members will participate in training to prepare them for professional careers in related fields and 80% will improve their skills by 20%

SPONSORSHIP OF WSP

The CCC is seeking new additional sponsorships for its long-standing WSP program. WSP needs an annual sponsorship of \$400,000 for three years in order to fund 44 participants at \$40,000 each. Partnering with WSP will expand the capabilities of agencies to protect and recover watersheds, reach the community through education and outreach, and develop the next generation of natural resource professionals.

Please contact Carrie Lewis for more information at (707) 496-0594 or Carrie.Lewis@ccc.ca.gov.



BENEFITS OF PARTNERING WITH WSP

As a program of the California Conservation Corps for the past 20 years the WSP has created a solid reputation throughout the natural resource community.

Hosting members is an excellent way for organizations to test out future employees without a long-term hire commitment!

WSP PROVIDES PARTNERS WITH THE FOLLOWING

Exclusive recruitment:	During the last program year there were 400 applicants for 44 positions. The applicants who were not placed became a potential recruitment pool for partnering agencies. WSP staff conduct initial interviews and provide sites with 8-14 well-matched applicants to interview and select.
Extensive member screening:	WSP conducts various background checks before members arrive to site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOJ/FBI background • NSOPR (National Sex Offender) • Pre-employment physical • Pre-employment drug test
Covered employer costs:	WSP covers employer costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly paychecks • Workers compensation • Healthcare benefits and liability insurance • Reimbursement for WSP related travel
Covered member benefit costs:	The California Conservation Corps provides members with benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5,550 scholarship upon completion of the year's commitments • No-cost medical and dental insurance • Full uniform (pants, boots, shirts, jackets, raingear) • First aid kits and throw bags • Field gear (waders, camping gear, polarized sun glasses)
Thorough member training/certifications:	Members come to sites with the following training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and Federal employee policies • Wilderness first aid/CPR • Swift water safety • State certified driver safety training • Civic engagement • Professional development • Collaborative team work
Positive public outreach:	Members conduct vital community outreach and provide positive public relations for agencies.
Member/site staff support:	WSP staff are available throughout the year to provide valuable support to both placement sites and members. WSP staff travel to placement sites to conduct annual site visits to ensure all partners and members are supported.
Member management support:	WSP provides placement sites with on-going support in the areas of member management and discipline (if the rare need arises).