

California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network Participant:

Join the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network, Carrie Gergits and Morgan Fessler from your own workspace for a 1-hour Webinar session Collaborations for Healthier Streams: California Watersheds and AmeriCorps Programs. The webinar will be on November 4 from 11:30 AM -12:30 PM. Please see the instructions below to join the webinar.

Collaborations for Healthier Streams: California Watersheds and AmeriCorps Programs

AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project

The mission of the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project (WSP), a multi-agency partnership, is to conserve, restore, and enhance anadromous watersheds for future generations by linking education with high-quality scientific practices. AmeriCorps WSP members are involved in a wide variety of watershed restoration, assessment and conservation projects, teaching watershed and fisheries-based curriculum to K-12 students, participating in myriad community outreach events, and receiving high quality training in natural resources and professional development topics. Each AmeriCorps member is placed with an organization which is committed to preserving and restoring California's watersheds and native salmon runs, whether it is a Federal, State or County agency, Tribal department, or a grassroots-based non-profit.

Watershed Stewards Project members each work under the guidance of a natural resource professional at their placement site to fulfill the WSP mission and provide support for their site. While working cooperatively with natural resource agencies, landowners, land managers, and community-based organizations, members survey streams and watersheds using State and Federal protocols. These scientific surveys assess current stream conditions with relation to fish habitat. <<http://www.watershedstewards.com/wsp>>

Carrie Gergits

Carrie Gergits is responsible for the overall guidance of the Watershed Stewards Project, including securing funding, ensuring member and mentor program compliance, monitoring member and mentor success, budget oversight, and all other functions related to maintaining a quality project that "gets things done". Previously Carrie worked as the Operations Manager, Education Coordinator and as an Environmental Educator for the Friends of the Dunes. She has also worked as a Volunteer Coordinator and Grant Writer. In 2003, she compiled and wrote a Teacher's Curriculum for the Bay to Dunes program as part of her graduate work, on the importance of "Experiential Education In and Out of the Classroom". Carrie completed undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh, in Liberal Studies, with a focus on environmental ethics, research and writing and obtained a M.A. in "Environment and Community" from Humboldt State University

Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Founded in 2007 and directed and administered by the Sierra Nevada Alliance, the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) mission is to assess and restore impaired watershed habitats and to increase community stewardship of the Sierra Nevada

watersheds through education and volunteerism. The Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) typically places twenty-seven AmeriCorps members at different conservation agencies and organizations throughout the Sierra Nevada to conduct watershed restoration and monitoring, watershed education, and volunteer recruitment and support.

<<http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/programs/program.shtml?type=pgm08>>

Morgan Fessler, Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership Program Director

Morgan Fessler joined the Sierra Nevada Alliance in 2007 to affect positive change in the Sierra that she loves so dearly. Morgan is a native of Northern California and has a background in conservation and restoration achieved by working with organizations such as the Student Conservation Association, New Hampshire State Parks, and the National Park Service. Morgan holds a B.A. in Sociology and Global Peace and Security from UC Santa Barbara.

Topic: California Watersheds and AmeriCorps Programs: Collaborations for Healthier Streams

Date: Thursday, November 4, 2010

Time: 11:15 am, Pacific Daylight Time (San Francisco, GMT-07:00)

The Webinar will start at 11:30 am and will conclude at 12:30 pm

Please log in at 11:15am

Meeting Number: 744 781 369

Meeting Password: wqmwebinar

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We have set up a web page for the California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/monitoring_council/collaboration_network/index.shtml>.

Materials (if available), including presentations and recordings of past webinars, will be posted on the CWQMCN website and are located under 'Monthly Webinars'.

We hope to use this web page to help you network with each other and with the larger monitoring community. So, feel free to give us your ideas on how to make it better.

Subscribe to the CWQMCN listserv

New participants can join the webinar listserv by signing up on the web at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml.

Enter your email address and name, place a check mark next to "Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network - Webinar Sessions", then click the "subscribe" button.

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Many of us in the water quality monitoring community have been looking for a California forum for sharing our ideas, successes and common concerns. In response to that need, the California Water Quality Monitoring Council is partnering with the Water Board's Surface Water Ambient

Monitoring Program, the Nonpoint Source Program and US Environmental Protection Agency to launch a monthly conference call to support the activities of regional monitoring programs.

The Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network will begin as a voluntary monthly conference call that members of the monitoring community can participate in as topics meet their interests. The conference call format and content will vary in response to input from participants. Sessions are planned to share technical and support tools for monitoring, assessment and reporting; to encourage discussion on common concerns like information management; and to provide a forum for networking.

It is envisioned that the Collaboration network will help support a state framework to coordinate consistent and scientifically defensible methods and strategies for improving water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting.