



Watershed Science Spring Internship

Organization Description: Sierra Streams Institute is a watershed science organization based in Nevada City, California, dedicated to increasing watershed stewardship capacity throughout the Sierra Nevada region and beyond. We work with local, state, and federal agencies as well as universities and community groups to find solutions to the problems that afflict Deer Creek and other watersheds (i.e. Bear River, Yuba River in the region that face challenges resulting from more than a century of gold mining, development, and agriculture. SSI's emphasis on rigorous science and community engagement provides the basis for restoration decisions that are made on behalf of Sierra watersheds, and makes us a valuable partner of local and state government agencies.

Position Description:

- Macroinvertebrate Lab: Benthic macroinvertebrate (creek insect) samples are processed in our laboratory. Interns utilize microscopy and taxonomic skills to identify insects to family level and become more proficient using dichotomous keys. Data entry and data proofing will also be involved.
- Water Quality Monitoring: Monitors test for pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, conductivity and temperature along Bear River and Deer Creek.
- Water Chemistry Lab: Water samples from Deer Creek and Bear River are processed in our laboratory for nutrient and bacteria levels. Laboratory upkeep tasks including data entry, data proofing, and protocol updates may also be involved.
- Other: Interns may also help with literature reviews, GIS mapping, wildlife and vegetation surveys, and habitat restoration based on need and intern interests.

Qualifications:

- Working towards a college degree with a focus and interest in biology, hydrology, ecology, environmental science, environmental studies or a related field.
- Ability to work independently, with other staff, and a diverse group of volunteers and interns.
- Strong written and oral communication skills; strong computer and organizational skills.
- Attention to detail.
- Ability to follow technical protocol.
- Ability to work in the office sitting at a computer station or in the field on uneven terrain.
- No technical expertise required.

Additional Benefits:

- Work with scientists in a welcoming environment to develop professional skills and network.
- Gain field and technical experience.
- Get involved in your local watershed and work on local restoration projects.
- Potential to get involved with other projects such as wildlife survey, habitat restoration, and GIS.
- Earn college credits

Details:

- January-May (exact dates are flexible)
- 5-10 hours per week

To Apply: send resume, cover letter and two references to Allison Hacker at allison@sierrastreamsinstitute.org