2020 Summer Internship

- **Organization Description:** Sierra Streams Institute is a watershed science and education organization based in Nevada City, California, dedicated to increasing watershed stewardship in the region. Founded in 1996 as Friends of Deer Creek, SSI has grown to become an important voice in the regional scientific community. 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) that share the challenges resulting from a century and a half of gold mining, development, and agriculture. SSI’s emphasis on citizen science, data collection 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:**
  Interns will begin work in mid-June. Physical Habitat (PHab) surveys will run through early to mid-July. In addition to PHab, there will be opportunities to participate in algae and benthic macroinvertebrate (BMI) sampling (depending on interest and availability), which will occur periodically throughout the summer.

  o **Physical habitat (PHab) Surveys:** PHab surveys include in-stream habitat (wood, rocks, flow), riparian habitat (lower and upper plant canopy), and human impacts (channelization, concrete etc.) Surveys are conducted at several sites along Deer Creek following the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Protocols (SWAMP). PHab Monitors will walk upstream in the creek for a 150m reach at each site and collect information on the habitat observed. After data is collected, interns will enter, proof, and have the opportunity to conduct analysis on the data they collected.

  o **BMI surveys:** BMI samples are collected at several sites along Deer Creek following the SWAMP protocols. Interns will walk upstream collecting BMI samples in the creek along a 150m transect at each site. Samples are processed in our lab. Interns will use microscopy and taxonomic skills to identify the macroinvertebrates to family level. They will become proficient using dichotomous keys.

  o **Algae Sampling:** Algae samples are collected at Deer Creek monthly from April through October. Samples are processed in our lab to analyze algae biomass.

- **Qualifications:**
- Strong interest in biology, hydrology, ecology, environmental science or a related field.
  - Completed or pursuing an undergraduate degree is a plus.
- Ability to work independently as well as 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 scientific protocols.
- Ability to hike through uneven terrain, creeks and vegetation (occasionally poison oak or Himalayan blackberry) and be on your feet for up to 10 hours a day.
- Ability to carry monitoring equipment that weighs up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to work in the office setting at a computer station.
- Must be able to commit to full internship term.
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn.
- Access to personal vehicle is a plus.

**Additional Benefits:** Although this internship is unpaid, we provide many valuable professional development opportunities for someone looking to pursue a scientific career.

- Work with scientists in a friendly and supportive environment to develop professional skills.
- Professional networking opportunities.
- Gain field and technical experience.
- Get involved in your local watershed and work on local restoration projects.
- Potential assistance in finding housing, if needed. Please note in your cover letter if you would need housing assistance.

**Details:**

- When: June – July, with opportunities for extensions through the remainder of the summer.
- Full time, 35-40 hours/week.

**To Apply:** send resume, cover letter and contact information for three references to Wes Slaughter at [wes@sierrastreams.org](mailto:wes@sierrastreams.org). Applications close April 20th, 2020.