



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

*Keeping light in the range.*

## **Fellow Work Plan Sierra Corps Fellowship Program**

**Host Site:** Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council

**Position Title:** Project Management Fellow

**Designated Site Supervisors:** YSRCDC - Justine Reynolds, Program Development and Project Manager; American Forests – Brittany Dyer, CA State Director

**Term of Service:** November 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020

### **Organizational Background:**

Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council (YSRCDC) is a regional 501©3 non-profit serving the foothill and mountain communities of Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Tulare Counties. The mission of the YSRCDC is “to promote the quality and aesthetic values of our cultural, environmental, and recreational resources by improving the quality of life through diverse sustainable economic development.”

YSRCDC has worked on a diverse suite of projects focused on resource conservation and economic development, including meadow restoration, fuel reduction, forest restoration and reforestation, community scale biomass, water quality and quantity projects, and wildfire recovery.

**Organizational/Program Goals 2019-2020:** YSRCDC has been identified as the local partner lead for the Southern Geography of Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s WIP capacity program, funded by the Regional Forests and Fire Capacity program. This role requires YSRCDC to assess the region’s planning and programmatic capacity, develop a strategy to implement plans and provide capacity development assistance, and coordinate with beneficiaries and partners to document progress. The fellow will be working with American Forests, the technical and planning assistance partner, to coordinate and implement the planned capacity building and technical assistance.

Recently the Council has focused on working on the tree mortality at the community scale in Madera and Mariposa Counties. Now that the proximate emergency is passing, YSRCDC is shifting focus to A) strategic planning for future wildfire mitigation implementation and B) shifting to working more with Tulare and Fresno partners to increase project implementation and grant capacity. In addition, YSRCDC recently signed a Master Stewardship Agreement with the Sierra National Forest which will result in coordination with partners to identify sponsor organization benefits. American Forests is tied into these processes as a technical expert in climate adaptive planning, either as a cooperator on grant funded programs or through the MOU under development.

During 2019/2020, YSRCDC also has the following programs and projects active which will likely be relevant to the Sierra Corps Fellow role.

- Madera Projects – Southern Sierra All Lands Recovery and Restoration Program: The suite of projects being implemented under this program include reforestation and fuel reduction in the Shuteye Restoration area, fire recovery planning around the mission fire burn area, adaptive management and ecological monitoring, and climate adaptive planning workshops.
- Madera Strategic Wildfire Mitigation Project: Implementation of 5-7 strategically valuable fuel break and fuel reduction projects in eastern Madera county, and development of a Fire Resilient Madera prioritization plan to help direct coordinated planning and implementation in Madera county.
- Blue Rush Fuel Reduction Project: This project will complete fuel reduction on 450 acres of mixed-conifer forest in order to prepare an additional 900 acres for prescribed fire implementation. Included in this project YSRCDC has outreach and engagement deliverables related to supporting other Dinkey Collaborative related work.

### **Fellow Work Plan Overview and Outcomes:**

The Project Management Fellow performs tasks that differentiate depending on the funder and project or program at hand. The fellow is expected to be aware of all grant guidelines, deliverables and timelines. The fellow will be asked to think creatively about the tasks at hand to see how a project may be able to be leveraged or improved. The PM manages projects and programs while keeping Council's best interests at hand. This position requires attention to details, anticipating changes or adaptations, building in preventatives, ability to multi-task, and time management.

During the year, the fellow will be primarily expected to support project management, partner coordination, and outreach and engagement activities associated with Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Programmatic funding. This includes meeting with partners, developing capacity assessments, and supporting partners as requested to complete prioritization processes. The other half of the fellow's time will be spent supporting YSRCDC and American Forests joint projects, and working with Council sponsor organizations to provide technical assistance.

### **Major Projects:**

#### **1. Forest Health Management**

- a. **Title and Focus Area(s):** Southern Sierra Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program - planning, assessment, project management, technical
  - i. **Priority Project:** *Sierra Corps member will work to support capacity assessment and program development in the Southern Sierra region. Capacity to collaboratively plan projects, prioritize projects for grant proposals and With supervision from YSRCDC Program Development Manager and AF State Director, and coordinated with Sierra Nevada Conservancy program goals, Sierra Corps member will a) conduct planning and capacity assessments in the region to determine resource and technical assistance needs; b) develop programs to increase capacity of*

*key organizations and partners; c) assist Program Development Manager with managing subgrantees and ensuring completion of project deliverables; d) coordinate with American Forests to plan and implement programs to provide technical assistance to key regional organizations and partners in developing climate-adaptive restoration strategies.*

**ii. Projected Hours:** 1020 hours (60%)

**iii. Estimated Acres Restored, # of people educated/reached, amount of funding secured:** *Approximately 2,000 people reached.* Some funding secured through the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program

**b. Title and Focus Areas:** Sponsor Organization Support program - planning, assessment, grant writing, mapping

**i. Priority Project:** the Y/S RC&D Council is made up of 21 sponsor organizations, including Resource Conservation Districts, Fire Safe Councils, Counties, local tribes, and other resource conservation organizations, but until now have provided limited benefits to sponsor organizations. YSRCDC also recently signed a master stewardship agreement with the Sierra National Forest, which will allow the organization to more closely partner with the Sierra National Forest, and ties in our sponsor organizations as potential partners for specific project agreements under the Master Stewardship Agreement. Under supervision from the Program Development Manager and working with the Communications and Partnership Coordinator, Project Management Fellow will a) help develop sponsor organization benefits and role, b) meet with sponsor organizations and identify technical capacity and needs; c) provide limited technical assistance to sponsor organizations as needed (5-10 hours); d) create/develop YSRCDC map resource which identifies area of influence, technical capacity, key partners, and other priority data for YSRCDC sponsor organizations.

**ii. Projected Hours:** 170 (10%)

**iii. Estimated Acres Restored, # of people educated/reached, amount of funding secured:** 2,000 people outreached

**c. Title and Focus Areas:** *Collaborative technical support*

**i. Priority Project:** YSRCDC is involved with various regional collaborative initiatives, including the Dinkey Collaborative, the SSARRP program, the MOTOR M2K program, and other collaborative planning in Madera County including the Fire Resilient Madera Workshops. YSRCDC is also partnering with American Forests and Sierra National Forest to develop a collaborative planning effort to plan and prioritize projects in the Bass Lake Ranger District. The Fellow's responsibilities during this project will be to a) provide technical assistance and facilitation support to collaborative planning processes, as directed by the Program Development Manager.

**ii. Projected Hours:** 85 (5%)

- iii. **Estimated Acres Restored, # of people educated/reached, amount of funding secured:** 2,000 people educated/reached

## 2. Biomass Utilization

### a. **Title and Focus Area(s):** Biomass Utilization Specific Project Agreements

- i. **Priority Project:** As part of initial utilization of the Master Stewardship Agreement, YSRCDC will be working with the Bass Lake Ranger District to develop a biomass utilization agreement which will remove hazardous tree mortality trees from decks in the forest, and will provide biomass to the North Fork Community Power project. Working with the Program Development Manager and Forest Service Staff, the Fellow will a) help draft a specific project agreement under the Master Stewardship Agreement focusing on biomass utilization and dead tree removal; and b) identify other projects on the Sierra National Forest to develop a Specific Project Agreements for.
- ii. **Projected Hours:** 85 (5%)
- iii. **Estimated Acres Restored, # of people educated/reached, amount of funding secured:** Approximately \$100,000 secured through MSA or Specific Project Agreements.

## 3. Wildfire Recovery

### a. **Title and Focus Area:** Madera projects – Southern Sierra All-lands Recovery and Restoration Project - project management, monitoring, project permitting

- i. **Priority Project:** This project, funded by the CALFIRE California Climate Investment Fund Forest Health program, is implementing a suite of planning and implementation projects, primarily focused around wildfire recovery, particularly from the French Fire (2014) and the Mission Fire (2017). Fellow will a) assist Program Development Manager with project management and communications with project partners; b) work with American Forests to develop and implement climate adaptive workshops related to project goals; c) identify and track performance measures related to grant deliverables; d) provide technical assistance to Mission Fire project planning as needed; e) work with Sierra National Forest partners on implementation projects and potentially assist with assessments or monitoring activities.
- ii. **Projected Hours:** 340 (20%)
- iii. **Estimated Acres Restored, # of people educated/reached, amount of funding secured:** *up to 600 acres restored, 2,000 people educated/reached*

### **Percentage Totals (insert as many sub sections as needed):**

- 1. **Project 1a:** 60%
- 2. **Project 1b:** 10%
- 3. **Project 1c:** 5%
- 4. **Project 2a:** 5%
- 5. **Project 3a:** 20%