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Regional

Sierra Streams Institute Organizes MLK Service Day Scotch Broom Pull to Help Restore Hirschman's Pond

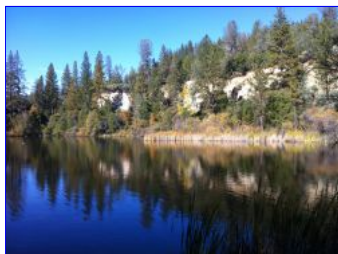
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By: Sierra Streams Institute

NEVADA CITY, Calif. January 12, 2016 - As part of National Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Monday January 18th, the Sierra Streams Institute (SSI) is organizing a service event to engage the larger community in the restoration and protection of Hirschman's Pond.



Hirschman's Pond, a former hydraulic mining site, provides important habitat for a variety of plant and wildlife species. Sierra Streams Institute is organizing a restoration event for Martin Luther King Jr. Day as part of the organization's larger land management plan for the site (November, 2015; Leah Campbell)

Hirschman's Pond, a former hydraulic mining site, is home to several important and sensitive species, including the Western Pond Turtle, Pacific Chorus Frog, and a variety of migrating waterfowl. SSI has recently begun a project to restore Hirschman's Pond in order to protect these species and create a healthier forest, while also reducing the risk of fire. As part of this initiative, SSI is organizing a restoration event for MLK Day to remove invasive species and educate the community about the wildlife habitat available at Hirschman's.

"The MLK Service Day is all about empowering individuals and strengthening communities, so this event provides an opportunity to engage the community in protecting this amazing public space, while also accomplishing some of our restoration goals," said Sarah Angulo, an Education Coordinator and current AmeriCorps member at Sierra Streams Institute.

"Hirschman's provides great examples of the kinds of anthropogenic threats present in this ecosystem, and we hope volunteers come away with an appreciation of how a little elbow grease can help recover a system that has been so impacted by people," said Alex Lincoln, another AmeriCorps member currently serving as a River Scientist at Sierra Streams.

Volunteers should gather at the Hirschman's Cement Hill Trailhead by 9am on Monday January 18th. The event will take place until approximately 1pm and will include pulling invasive Scotch Broom and a wildlife walk around the park. To get there, take Highway 49 towards Downieville, turn right on Cement Hill and meet in the small parking lot on the left. Car-pooling is encouraged. Tools and light snacks will be provided, but volunteers should bring water, work gloves, food, and sun/rain protection. This event will happen rain or shine. To sign up, please e-mail Alex Lincoln at alex@sierrastreamsinstitute.org.

The Sierra Streams Institute is organizing this event with the help of their three AmeriCorps members. For the past 10 years, SSI has participated in the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) program. AmeriCorps members from the SNAP program have dedicated thousands of hours in projects relating to watershed restoration, monitoring, education, and volunteer recruitment. Events similar to this upcoming MLK Day at Hirschman's Pond allow AmeriCorps members to fulfill the requirements of their service, while contributing to the needs of SSI and the broader community.

For those interested in other volunteer opportunities available at Sierra Streams Institute in the future, visit <http://www.sierrastreamsinstitute.org/volunteer.html>.

Sierra Streams Institute (SSI) is a watershed monitoring, research, and

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Year	Acres Burned
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2007	~150
2008	~100
2009	~150
2010	~100
2011	~150
2012	~100
2013	~150
2014	~100
2015	~150

restoration group based in Nevada City, California, in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Our mission is to link water, science and people for the benefit of human and environmental health. Founded in 1995 as Friends of Deer Creek, SSI has grown to become an important voice in the regional scientific community—but we are still proud to call Deer Creek our home watershed.

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