



Position Description

Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

Position Title: *Education Coordinator*
Host Site: *Eastern Sierra Land Trust*
Site Supervisor: *Kay Ogden, Executive Director*
Contact: *(760) 873-4554, kay@eslt.org*

Position Location: *The Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) is located in Bishop, California, and is known as “the small town with the big backyard”. With a population of 8,000 (there are 18,000 residents in Inyo County), Bishop sits in a deep valley, nestled between the majestic Sierra Nevada and the intriguing White-Inyo Mountains. People from around the world treasure Bishop and the Eastern Sierra Nevada for many reasons - the awesome vistas, the working farms and ranches, the thriving fish and wildlife, the nearly-unlimited recreational opportunities, and a rural heritage that hearkens back to the days of the great American frontier - reasons that inspire the protection of these values for future generations.*

Bishop is renowned for its outdoor recreational opportunities and offers access to world class rock climbing, bouldering, backpacking, hiking, trout fishing and skiing in the winter, with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area only 40 minutes away. Bishop has a local brewery, a summer Farmer’s Market, CSAs, organic food options and a robust art community. At 4,150 ft. above sea level, the natural environment of Bishop changes quickly from the high desert sage and arid climate of the wide open Owens Valley floor to an alpine wonderland of pine forest, rushing streams and gorgeous deep-blue lakes surrounded by the mighty mountain peaks of the Eastern Sierra. Bishop also offers quick access to the John Muir Wilderness, Yosemite National Park, Mono Lake Scenic Area, Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Death Valley National Park. The closest large airports are Reno, Las Vegas and Los Angeles, with limited air service out of Mammoth Lakes.

Organization Description: *Established in 2001 and accredited in 2011, Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) works with willing landowners to protect working farms and ranches, rare wildlife habitat, and a rural heritage that hearkens back to the days of the great American frontier. We work in California’s Eastern Sierra, a 14,000 square-mile region rich in wildlife and natural beauty and steeped in the history and legacy of the old West. Through strategic conservation easements that afford permanent protection for private land, ESLT enters into legal agreements with willing landowners to safeguard their land for scenic, agricultural, recreational, habitat, and watershed values. This healthy balance of sustainable uses ensures a strong local economy and protection for natural areas, wildlife habitat, and migration corridors.*

Preserving the Eastern Sierra goes beyond protecting the land with legal tools. Our community outreach engages and inspires the public to take responsibility for protecting the Eastern Sierra’s rural legacy. Youth are a special focus, as our next generation will soon be responsible for making decisions about land use and management. By instilling the value of conservation, we encourage an ethic of

land protection that will last for decades to come. Educational activities for elementary school students include birding and natural history field trips, creative writing workshops, and pollinator and native plant gardens. For older students, ESLT organizes multi-day ecological restoration projects, leads tours and camp-outs on preserved lands, and organizes field trips to wildlife migration corridors and habitat restoration projects. Activities take place on land that has been protected by ESLT.

Program Description: *The Eastern Sierra region is a unique blend of farms and ranches, wildlife and plant habitats, scenic vistas and open spaces that are all vital parts of our quality of life and economy. Preservation of these lands benefits us all. And preserving the Eastern Sierra goes beyond protecting land with legal tools, it includes the whole community working together to keep our region healthy and thriving, for now, and for the future.*

ESLT is dedicated to having an active role in our communities – educating people of all ages about the value of preserving rural lands in the Eastern Sierra. Our Community Connections program offers ESLT members and the entire Eastern Sierra community, residents and visitors, the opportunity to connect with our treasured lands – to live, to learn and to experience the value of preserving these lands.

Position Description: *ESLT's Education Coordinator and AmeriCorps member will expand, develop and deliver high quality youth and adult environmental educational programs for the organization by involving our community and members in certifying pollinator-friendly gardens, field trips, seminars, workshops, and restoration and stewardship projects. Our Education Coordinator will be involved in watershed restoration and enhancement including: implementation, recruitment and community education about the Eastside Pollinator Garden Project; collaboration and coordination of habitat restoration projects that include the Round Valley Mule Deer herd and the Owens Speckled Dace fish populations, one of which has been labeled a Fish Species of Special Concern in California; collaboration with local organizations and other AmeriCorps members in the area; design, production and distribution of education materials that increase public awareness and support for effective watershed and habitat protection and enhancement; outreach and presentations to community groups, citizen sciences and stakeholders; develop and organize effective restoration and education events such as The Great Sierra River Clean-Up and Scenic Highway 395 clean-up; utilizing GIS to make maps for outreach, presentations and citizen science involvement; recruitment and management of program related volunteers; and occasional assistance with land stewardship projects.*

Required Qualifications: *Applicants should possess a college degree with a focus and interest in biology, ecology, environmental science, human/public health, or related field; high level of energy and passion for ESLT's mission, preserved lands and the region's important watersheds. Excellent communication skills, interest in and general knowledge of pollinator and native plants, biology, good physical conditioning, and ability to navigate and travel in the outdoors are required qualifications. Interest in working with youth to plant and maintain our school sunflower garden and the public through outreach efforts will be helpful. Ability to hike through creeks and vegetation and be on your feet for up to 10 hours a day and the ability to work in the office sitting at a computer station for up to 8 hours a day; Tolerance and appreciation for various viewpoints are also necessary for living in a remote rural environment. Sense of humor and team player orientation is always a plus.*

Desired Qualifications: *Our ideal candidate will also have GPS unit operation and basic GIS utilization.*

Additional Benefits: *ESLT staff and board will assist with introductions to Eastern Sierra living for our AmeriCorps member. Fresh food and baked goods show up at unexpected times, and the office has a full shower and is walking distance to “downtown”. Living in a safe and small town surrounded by awe inspiring scenery and endless outdoor recreational opportunities is a priceless and unequalled benefit!*

Website: www.eslt.org