

# ESLT, AmeriCorps form productive partnership

## Young adults learn and grow while performing national service

Eastern Sierra Land Trust

The Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) is proud to announce its third year partnering with the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Program (SNAP).

For the past three years, the ESLT along with 19 other non-profit community groups or natural resource agencies in 11 towns working throughout the Sierra Nevada, hosted AmeriCorps members. In 2008, 27 AmeriCorps members volunteered for a year of national service doing work throughout the Sierra Nevada for a small monthly stipend.

In December, Katie Nelson completed her year of service with the Eastern Sierra Land Trust and graduated from the program. Nelson, along with the 27 other members in her graduating class, served 40 hours a week for their year of service which together added up to 2,000 acres of high priority lands and rivers restored, ecological monitoring on 340 sites, educating more than 17,200 individuals and engaging more than 2,600 volunteers.

"The AmeriCorps service gave me the opportunity to gain vital job skills, meet a lot of great folks and serve a local conservation organization," said Nelson.

This year, Serena Dennis joins the AmeriCorps team, serving at the ESLT as the education and outreach coordinator. "I am excited for this year of service,"

Dennis said. "I am looking forward to meeting the local community, collaborating on projects and helping to conserve the area's natural beauty and productive farm and ranchland."

This valuable work in the community is possible through the collaboration of many different organizations. ESLT is a local nonprofit organization based in

engagement through service and volunteering.

For more information, visit [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov).

"The AmeriCorps program is an excellent opportunity for both the member and the host organization. It not only gets important projects done in our community, but it provides the member an amazing experience they can



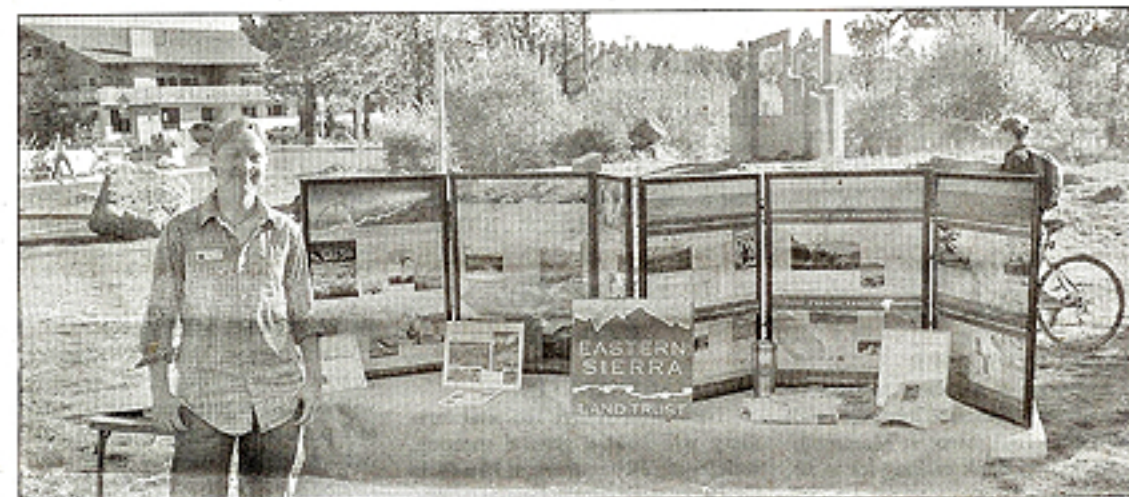
Serena Dennis, a whitewater boatman, on the Yampa River, Colo. Photo by Stephen Ingram

Bishop that works with private landowners and the public to preserve working farms and ranches, natural areas and historical and biological resources in the Eastern Sierra.

To learn more, visit its Web site [www.easternsierralandtrust.org](http://www.easternsierralandtrust.org), or call (760) 873-4554.

AmeriCorps is a part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, whose mission is to build lives, strengthen communities and foster civic

build on for the rest of their life," said Mary McGurke, development and outreach director at the Eastern Sierra Land Trust. "Our member's service working with volunteers conducting restoration, coordinating community events, and providing education programs on the land that we have helped preserve would not have happened without their commitment and dedication to service. We are so grateful to be a part of this important program."



Katie Nelson, former ESLT outreach and education coordinator, educating the public at the Living with Wildlife Festival at Mammoth Creek Park in 2008. Photo by Stephen Ingram