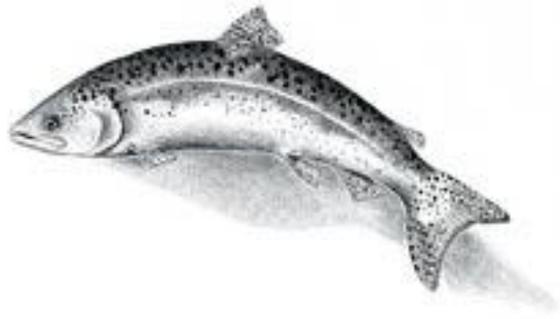




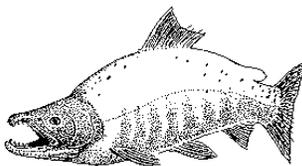
Eel River Watershed Improvement Group and California Conservation Corps Fortuna Site Handbook





Watershed Stewards Project Mission

The mission of the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project is to conserve, restore, and enhance anadromous watersheds for future generations by linking education with high quality scientific practices.



Sockeye Salmon



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Introduction

Site Description

Location Your mentor's office is located inside the Fish Office at the CCC-Fortuna Center, 1500 Alamar Way, Fortuna. Your work sites will range from Northern Mendocino north to the Oregon/California border in Del Norte County. All of your work will be within watersheds that include anadromous salmonid streams.

Agency Affiliation You will be working with the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group and the California Conservation Corps-Fortuna. The nature of your work will also have you working alongside other agencies on individual projects. Both the CCC and ERWIG work very closely with CA DFG, US FWS, our local RCDs, NOAA, and SRWQCB.

Description of Site Duties

Your site duties while working for ERWIG and the CCC are varied and allow for many learning opportunities. Your ability to remain flexible and work independently will help you get the most from every situation. For your first month, you will work in the field assisting your mentors with project oversight. During the rainy season, some of your time will be spent in the office writing final reports and grant proposals. The rest of your time will be spent in the field working with CCC crews on tree planting, re-vegetation and erosion control projects. WSP members will actively participate in these on the ground projects along with pre-project planning preparation and monitoring.

ERWIG is in the process of digitizing it's archives, so some of your downtime may be spent inputting data into a database that was developed in Year 17.

Members at this site will be in charge of developing, coordinating, and implementing a week-long outdoor educational fair, called 'Creek Days'. It consists of walking small groups of schoolchildren through the redwood forest to various displays and demonstrations that teach children about various aspects of stream ecology, salmonid populations, and local restoration efforts throughout Northern California. This event is held in May. Approximately 300-450 kids and teachers from local elementary classrooms will attend; each group visits for one day. 'Creek Days' began in 1998, and has been very well-received by the local school community. This is a BIG (and incredibly rewarding) chore, and you will have plenty of guidance to ensure success. Ruth Goodfield will be your main contact.

Much of the spring is spent in streams and in the office doing project design. This involves designing fisheries restoration projects for the CCC corpsmembers to accomplish in the future. Project design and planning includes: site design, materials budget, and logistical planning such as equipment and crew access to sites.

During the summer and beginning of fall, the instream structures developed the previous spring will be implemented. This may involve going on spike with a crew of CCC members for up to eight days. They will be accompanied by a supervisor, but one of the duties of this site is to provide mentorship and knowledge to the CCC members. During these spikes is a great time to get to know these individuals as well as teach them anything they might be curious about.



One thing to remember about working with the CCC crews during fire season (summer, fall) is that they can be pulled out to fire emergencies any day, and for a length of time you may be left without corpsmembers to work with. This could also happen at other times of the year for other emergencies such as oil spills, avian flu outbreaks, or flood/erosion control, etc.



General Calendar of Duties at ERWIG / CCC Fortuna

Month	Location	Site Duties	Work Load	Typical Work Hours
Fall				
October	Field	Orientation, finishing up In-stream, monitoring/follow-up	Heavy	10 hour days – 4 days/wk (M-Th 7:00-5:30)
November	Office/Field	Reports, prepping for tree plantings	Medium-Light	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
Winter				
December	Office/Field	Reports, prep for tree planting, willow work, invasive removal	Light	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
January	Field	Tree planting/willow work/invasives	Medium	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
February	Office/Field/Classroom	grant writing, tree planting, Creek Days prep	Medium	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
Spring				
March	Office/Field/Classroom	Tree planting, exotic/invasive plant removal, grant proposals , Creek Days prep	Medium-Heavy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
April	Office/Field	SRF, Exotic removal, permit paperwork, Creek Days prep	Medium	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
May	Office/Field	Project prep, 'Creek Days' event	Heavy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 8:00-4:30)
Summer				
June	Office/Field	In-stream work prep and design, project development	Medium	10 hour days – 4 days/wk (M-Th 7:00-5:30)
July	Office/Field	In-stream structures, project development	Medium	10 hour days – 4 days/wk (M-Th 7:00-5:30)
August	Office/Field	In-stream structures, project monitoring/follow-up	Medium	10 hour days – 4 days/wk (M-Th 7:00-5:30)



ISPs and Outreach Events

General ISP Information

Former Projects The varieties of ISPs that can be done at this site location are almost endless. Perhaps the DFG Fortuna Site Handbook would also be a good reference. The Humboldt Bay area is a great source for volunteers who are always willing to work with a smile on their face. The ISPs done by former members consisted of two river clean ups on the Eel River, willow sprigging on Yager Creek, a tree planting in Fortuna, and English Ivy removal in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. More can be done on the Eel River due to a lot of backwoods dump sites that have been accumulating trash for many years.

Project Suggestions Here is a list of ISP ideas that might help for future projects:

- **“Projects in the Park” at Humboldt Redwoods**
- Adopt-a-Highway roadside clean-up
- PalCo Marsh Clean-up
- Rocky Gulch tree planting
- Van Duzen River Clean-up
- Eel River Clean-up
- DFG/HFAC Volunteer Work Days
- Jacoby Creek Restoration Project

Supporting Organizations Here are a few organizations to contact about ideas for an ISP:

- Humboldt Redwoods State Park
- Friends of the Van Duzen
- Friends of the Eel River
- Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (Mentor)
- HFAC
- California Conservation Corps (Mentor)

Donating Organizations Here are a few businesses that have donated food for ISPs in the past (note that you cannot claim hours when soliciting donations):

- Co-op (Eureka, Arcata)
- Wildberries Market (Arcata)
- Los Bagels (Arcata)
- Safeway
- CC Market (Rio Dell)
- Rays Food Place
- Murrish Market (Hydesville)

- Local Media*
- KSLG
 - KHSU
 - KMUD
 - KHUM
 - Channel 3
 - Eureka Reporter
 - Times Standard
 - The Journal
 - Flyers placed at HSU and community bulletin boards





Education

Education Notes

Real Science Education

This site is blessed with the privilege of being located conveniently next to the Watershed Stewards Project main office. Any questions or concerns that may occur during the term of service can be answered conveniently by your Education Team Leader. The 'Ed Room' (education room) is also located in the WSP office, which is filled with plenty of Real Science teaching aids and materials. There should also be an education bin filled with educational goodness at your disposal in the DFG office next door.

Teaching Aids

The Ed Room is spilling over with imaginative games and creative ideas from previous WSP members. Some of them work better than others all depending on what age group is being taught. Fred The Fish, Sniffin' Salmon, The Watershed Overview, Life Cycle Pageant/Fashion Show, and Macro-invertebrate sampling are always key winners when working with large groups of children.

The most helpful thing, while teaching, is to get the students involved and thinking while having fun at the same time. Sometimes this involves going outside and playing a good game of Salmon, Salmon, Otter (just like Duck, Duck, Goose) or any rendition of tag that can be thought of to give a break from learning about the life cycle or watersheds.

It's also been proven that switching it up in your lessons is a good thing. For example, if you do a 'sit-down-and-listen' type of lesson for the first half hour of your class, you may want to follow up with a nice active lesson where you get the kids up and moving. And the younger the age group, the more you'll want to switch it up to accommodate their attention spans.

Salmonid Restoration Project (SRP) Training

The California Conservation Corps holds Salmon Restoration Program (SRP) trainings for the entire Fortuna CCC Center at the beginning of the spring. This training consists of teaching the corpsmembers about the salmonid life cycle and how our restoration work helps improve fish habitat. The life cycle slide show is a great tool as well as some of the videos located in the WSP office. The rest of training will be spent moving with a crew and learning how to log drill, rock drill, and anchor large woody debris.

Smaller SRP trainings are done throughout the SRP season. These, however, are easier to deal with than the large groups. Normally a class only lasts for 3 hours, but a lot of information will need to be taught during that time.



Local Ecology

Descriptions of Local Ecology

Local Ecology The Humboldt Bay Region used to consist of large old growth redwoods. These trees were cut and milled through the 1800 and 1900s. Where the great redwoods once stood was then turned into farm land and grazing pastures.

The Eel River basin is large and offers an array of climate regimes. The mouth of the Eel is in foggy Ferndale. Ferndale is a 'cowtown', consisting largely of local dairies. Further upstream is the South Fork Eel River, which features some beautiful groves of floodplain redwoods in the state park. The South Fork Eel is still somewhat within the influence of the marine layer, but it gets hot and sunny in the summer. The SF Eel also offers fir/redwood forests and oak grasslands in the higher elevations. The Eel basin also includes the upper mainstem, middle fork, and north fork. These are remote lands; lovely places that are rarely visited.

The entire region was filled with flourishing Native American populations. The native tribes varied greatly and scant groups are still around today.

To get more information on the area's ecology, one might read:

- Wild Trees – by Richard Preston
- The Everyday History of Somewhere – by Ray Raphael

Housing and Local Resources

Housing Contact List

The best options for finding a place to rent in Humboldt County are on Craigslist. The Eureka Reporter and Times Standard newspapers can be handy resources as well. For the most part, Arcata and Eureka have more expensive rental places than other areas in Humboldt, but they also have the most to do. The Co-op in Arcata is another great resource when looking for housing options (just make sure you take a glance at the date the postings were put up – sometimes they are old).

If housing is a serious problem and not a soul is renting, get creative. Also, AmeriFriends are great at lending couch and floor space. You may also inquire at the CCC main office, sometimes the staff have some creative ideas for housing or may know someone who is looking for a roommate.

Local Resource Contacts

- WSP Office – 707-725-8601
- Department of Health and Human Services – 1-877-696-6775
- Andrea Poteet – 707-496-1638
- CCC Office – 707-725-5106
- DFG Office – 707-7251053
- ERWIG – 707-725-4317 (message phone)



Community Information

Community Services

Health

- Planned Parenthood
 - Eureka (707) 442-5700
- Open Door Health Clinic
 - Eureka (707) 441-1624
 - Arcata (707) 826-8610
- Burre Dental
 - Eureka (707) 442-7078

Food

- Food Bank
 - Eureka (707) 445-3166
 - Arcata (707) 822-5008
- Food Stamps – Social Services
 - Eureka



Entertainment and Community Events

Resources for Affordable Entertainment Options

Farmer's Markets

The local Farmer's Markets run from May to October and are great fun:

- Arcata – Saturday 9am- 2pm
- Fortuna – Tuesday pm
- Wildberries (Arcata) – Tuesday pm
- Ferndale – Saturday am
- McKinleyville – Thursday pm
- Eureka – Tuesday, Thursday am

Shows

North Coast Journal

- <http://www.northcoastjournal.com/>

The Lumberjack

- <http://www.thejackonline.org/>

KSLG 94.1 'Slug Festivities Guide'

- <http://www.kslg.com/slprint.php>

Movies

Eureka

- Broadway Cinema (707) 444-3456
- Bayshore Mall (707) 443-6771

Arcata Minor

- (707) 822-3456

Fortuna Theater

- (707) 725-2121

McKinleyville - Mill Creek Cinema

- (707) 839-2222

Festivals

Oyster Fest (Arcata Plaza) – June

Pride (Arcata Plaza) – September

Blues By the Bay (Eureka) – August

Jazz Festival (Eureka) –

Hum Co Fair (Ferndale) –

Organic Planet (Eureka) – August

Anne and Marie Days (Blue Lake) –

Wolfstock (Eureka) –

Hops in Humboldt (Fortuna) –

Reggae Rising (SoHum) – summer

Benbow Arts & Music (Benbow) –

Apple Harvest (Fortuna) – fall

Fortuna Rodeo (Fortuna) – July

Redwood Acres Fair (Eureka) –

Orick Rodeo (Orick) –

Recurring Event List

Arts Alive

Arcata, Eureka, once a month

Take Back the Night

Arcata, once yearly



Helpful Hints

Member Notes

The most helpful suggestion I can give is to be extremely flexible and willing to work independently. I'll repeat this. You will need to be extremely flexible and willing to work independently to enjoy this site. Schedules will change, days will vary drastically, and you will be asked to do things on your own. Your Mentors will always be available to answer questions, but they will also expect you to take initiative and be creative.

In addition to your mentors, you will work closely with CCC and ERWIG staff members who are very experienced and knowledgeable about everything that we do. Most work days you will be accompanied or guided by these staff persons.

The computers are filled with vital information as well. Learn how to navigate around. If you have any questions, ask. Your mentors are there to help and guide you, and this site offers plenty of different ways to learn and grow each day.

Finally, the CCC and ERWIG work together closely on many projects, so though you are working for two organizations, many of the projects you will be tasked with will benefit both organizations. This site is a great way to see the interplay between governmental, non-profit and private organizations.

Mentors

Ruth Goodfield – Ruth is the Watershed Coordinator for the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group. She's been around for a long time, and she knows the restoration community inside and out. She began working in the restoration field as a CCC corpsmember, which has given her respect for and an understanding of the corpsmembers and staff at the center and all they do. She's worked at DFG for years as well, and so has all the insider information you'll need if you want to get in on their trainings. She's been with ERWIG for the last 15 years. Ruth lives in Garberville, so even though her office is right across the hall, you won't see her every day. You'll have times where you'll see her twice or three times a week and others where you won't see her at all but will communicate via phone. She'll be your primary contact on Creek Days and will likely be the one taking you out for project development.

Larry Notheis – Larry Notheis is currently the acting Center Director at the Fortuna CCC Campus. He has been my mentor this year, but may pass on those duties to the incoming Conservation Supervisor for your year. He is extremely interested in your well-being and wants you to succeed during your time here, whatever that success looks like to you. He is extremely busy, and is more of a hands-off mentor. If you need him for anything, he's there in a heartbeat, but he expects you to come to him if you need something.

Conservation Supervisor - Unknown

Other Staffers

Andrea Poteet – Andrea is the Fish Habitat Specialist at the CCC-Fortuna Center, and she will be the person you work with on a day-to-day basis. Her desk is about 15 feet away from yours, so you will get to know each other very well. Andrea will be in charge of giving you reports and proposals to work on, and she will often send you into the field to assist with project implementation and monitoring. She generally arrives at the office between 8:30 and 9:00 and stays past closing to finish up work.

Jason Frederickson – Jason is the new Fisheries Technician at the CCC-Fortuna Center. He's the lead on grant writing and project development and will likely be the one to take you out for the development of CCC projects.



Attachments

Contact Lists

Ed Logs & Information

ISP Logs & Information

Outreach Summaries & Information

Site Protocols & Information

Site Forms