
Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program and the Student Conservation Association 2010 Field Season Overview



Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program
USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Regional Office
Bureau of Land Management Oregon State Office
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Background

The purpose of the Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program (AREMP) is to assess the status and trend of watershed attributes to determine if the Aquatic Conservation Strategy described in the Northwest Forest Plan is achieving its goals of maintaining and restoring the condition of watersheds on federal lands in the Pacific Northwest. AREMP has partnered with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) since 2004 to hire interns for summer field work. From 2004 to 2010, a total of 38 interns gained valuable experience in the field of natural resources working with AREMP.

Benefits of Hiring SCA Interns to the US Forest Service and BLM

SCA interns bring new ideas and energy to our agencies, and provide a way to culturally and geographically diversify our work force. The interns' commitment and work ethic results in high quality data collected for agency use, while interns gain valuable work experience. In addition, SCA volunteers often return to our program in future years as seasonal employees. These returning SCA interns provide valuable on-the-ground survey experience to our field crews.

What are SCA interns from previous years doing now?

- Five returned as biological science technicians for AREMP during the 2010 field season.
- One returned as a GIS Intern with AREMP working to streamline data entry processes in the field.
- Conducting various types of fisheries surveys for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Attending graduate school at Oregon State University to become a middle school science teacher.
- Property Manager for a land trust organization in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.
- Completing undergraduate degrees at Western Washington University and Humboldt State University.

2010 SCA Intern Profiles

Julie Riggio

Hometown — White Lake, Michigan

School — Grand Valley State University — Allendale, Michigan

Major — Natural Resource Management

Current Year in School — Senior (graduating in 2 months!)

An Interesting Thing About Me — I really love to bake! All sorts of delicious things!

What I liked best about AREMP — Meeting so many great people and seeing some spectacular places!

What I learned from my summer with AREMP — I learned how to work intimately with a group of people who share differing views on life and have different backgrounds. I know this skill will be invaluable to me in whatever I pursue. I also learned how to work for a government agency and some of the 'ins' and 'outs' of government employment. Working with AREMP showed me how important GIS is too, and helped me remember that the GIS skills I am currently building are really going to help me in the long run.

Did AREMP help reinforce or change your career plans? — AREMP only helped to reinforce what I want to do/be when I get older. I'm hoping to pursue an interdisciplinary master's degree in water science, policy, and management with a little environmental modeling thrown in. Working with AREMP gave me a little taste of all of that.



Michelle Solari

Hometown — Midland, Texas

School — Texas State University—San Marcos, TX

Major — Resource and Environmental Studies with a Water Policy certificate

Current Year in School: Senior

An Interesting Thing About Me — I have seen over 400 bands play in my lifetime.

What I liked best about working with AREMP — I enjoyed the hands on experience of working in the Pacific Northwest. The river was my office....you can't beat that.

What I learned from my summer with AREMP — I learned how to use a ton of new equipment that I had not worked with before to better quantify the health of streams and to also be able to see the stream as a whole functioning system of the watershed.

Did AREMP help reinforce or change your career plans? — I think that this experience with AREMP helped reinforce my love of nature and to appreciate the wealth of the natural resources around us. I would definitely like to continue working with water systems in the future. They fascinate me!



Rose Pazdral

Hometown — Deadwood, Oregon

School — Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts

Major — Environmental Studies

Current Year in School — Junior

An Interesting Thing About Me — I am bilingual. I will spend spring semester studying abroad with the School for Field Studies in Baja, Mexico.

What I liked best about working with AREMP — Although I am a Pacific Northwest native, there are many places in the region that I have yet to see. Working with AREMP gave me the opportunity to explore beautiful backcountry watersheds in untraveled locations.

What I learned from my summer with AREMP — During my summer interning for AREMP, I learned what field research is, how to navigate accurately, what working for the government entails, and many field research skills.

Did AREMP help reinforce or change your career plans? — Yes, definitely. I realized that I want to work in the outdoors (at least in the beginning), and that I wouldn't mind working for a government program.



Ian Higgins

Hometown — Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania

School — Warren Wilson College — Asheville, North Carolina

Major — Environmental Chemistry

Current Year in School — Junior

An Interesting Thing About Me— I love hiking and biking. I am spending fall semester in Namibia, Africa.

What I liked best about AREMP— Being outside and conducting meaningful field work, while getting valuable experience that I can use for the rest of my life.

What I learned from my summer with AREMP— I learned how to be a better scientist.



For more information on SCA interns and the Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program contact Heidi Andersen (hvandersen@fs.fed.us) or visit —<http://www.reo.gov/monitoring/watershed-overview.shtml>