



Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program and the Student Conservation Association 2011 Field Season Overview



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 SCA since 2004 to hire interns for summer field work. From 2004 to 2011, a total of 42 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.

Benefits to SCA Interns— SCA Interns gain valuable experience during summer internships with AREMP. Interns attend three weeks of training at the beginning of the field season, which includes topics such as safety, use of technical equipment, and how to conduct surveys. Specific training includes wilderness first aid, CPR, blood borne pathogens, use of epinephrine pens for allergic reactions, use of safety devices (cell phones, satellite phones and Forest Service radios), defensive driving, invasive species identification, how to prevent the spread of invasive species, amphibian identification, stream channel mapping, navigation with GPS units, and use of ArcPad to enter data on field computers. In addition to valuable experience and training, interns are eligible for AmeriCorps Education awards up to \$1400 which can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training, or to repay qualified student loans.

2011 SCA Intern Profiles

Katie Chang

Hometown — Lexington, Massachusetts

School — University of Vermont

Major — Environmental Science

Graduation Year — 2008

An Interesting Thing About Me — The giant water bug is perhaps my favorite aquatic insect.

What I liked best about working with AREMP— My co-workers all had great welcoming and positive attitudes. It made the work experiences (both beautiful and challenging) quite enjoyable! It's easy to love a big tree or pick yourself back up after a fall when you have others around you to share and connect with.

What I learned from my summer with AREMP— I have gained confidence in myself and feel renewed and refreshed from my experience.

Did AREMP help reinforce or change your career plans? — I had been working at the same lab in Vermont as an aquatics technician and wasn't sure it was the path for me. Working for AREMP reinforced that I want a career in aquatic ecology. It was helpful to learn new techniques, see new rivers, and engage with different people.



Katie participates in two days of wilderness first aid training prior to heading out into the field.

Ryan Acker

Hometown — New Glarus, Wisconsin

School — Minnesota State University (Mankato)

Major — Zoology

Current Year in School — Senior

An Interesting Thing About Me — I enjoy playing music and give guitar lessons.

What I liked best about AREMP — The people I worked with this summer made my experience in Oregon with AREMP memorable. Also, I enjoyed seeing all of the beautiful and remote watersheds that I surveyed this summer.

What I learned from my summer with AREMP— I learned valuable field survey techniques that I hope to continue in future employment opportunities. I also learned how important teamwork and good communication can be in field research situations.

Did AREMP help reinforce or change your career plans? AREMP helped reinforce my career goals. I am motivated to continue to pursue field research opportunities and a career in conservation. AREMP also gave me an opportunity to experience and work in the most beautiful part of the country and I hope to someday call the Pacific Northwest my home.



Ryan looks at the stream channel to determine his next shot during a channel mapping survey.



Cara examines a crayfish to determine whether it is a native or invasive species.

Cara Kukuraitus

Hometown — Downers Grove, Illinois

School — Indiana University

Major — Public and Environmental Management

Graduation Year — 2008

An Interesting Thing About Me— I love to travel and rock climb!

What I liked best about AREMP— Getting to sleep under that stars every night/living and working in some of the most beautiful places I have ever seen.

What I learned from my summer with AREMP— I learned how to navigate in the backcountry, map streams and collect data on watershed health, how to work well with others and manage group dynamics in a small



Katie Chang (2010 SCA Intern) and Michelle Solari (2009 SCA Intern) jump for joy to have the opportunity to work in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.



Michael listens attentively during crew training to learn data collection techniques.

Michael Oldham

Hometown —Holliston, Massachusetts

School — University of Vermont

Graduation Year — 2009

An Interesting Thing About Me — Through the SCA I have had the opportunity to work all over this country; from the beaches of Cape Cod, to the mountains of Idaho and the streams of the Pacific Northwest.

What I liked best about working with AREMP — Exploring the Northwest and getting a chance to experience different riparian ecosystems.

What I learned from my summer with AREMP — The value of good science and attention to specific detail was reinforced.

Andrew Smyth

Hometown — Seattle, Washington

School — Tufts University (Boston, MA)

Major — Environmental Studies, History

Graduation Year — 2011

An Interesting Thing About Me— I love to juggle.

What I liked best about AREMP— The great people I got to work with!

What I learned from my summer with AREMP— I gained valuable insights on how watersheds function, and of the role that the BLM and Forest Service play in managing the land.



Andrew points at a thermograph location in the stream channel to help future surveyors retrieve and download stream



An AREMP crew of SCA Interns and BLM employees prepares to hike into a remote watershed on the Klamath National Forest.

Forrest Kaye (2006 SCA Intern) teaches crews to enter data on field computers. Forrest spent the last year working with AREMP to streamline data collection processes.





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>

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