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Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) Service Members Help Remove Five Acres of Invasive Species for Martin Luther King Day

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NEVADA CITY, Calif. January 22, 2016 - On Monday, January 18th, five service members from the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) came together at Hirschman's Pond in Nevada City for a day of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. AmeriCorps members from Sierra Streams Institute (SSI), a local nonprofit, organized a scotch broom removal day to help restore Hirschman's Pond. AmeriCorps members from the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) and The Sierra Fund (TSF) joined as well, along with community volunteers. The group removed the invasive species on five acres of land, creating a more hospitable environment for native vegetation and wildlife.



The day began with a brief educational introduction to scotch broom from SSI River Scientist and AmeriCorps member, Alex Lincoln. "Scotch broom is a highly flammable noxious weed. Removing this invasive species reduces the risk of wildfire and subsequent erosion providing a healthier forest for native plants, animals, and people," said Lincoln.

Armed with weed wrenches and work gloves, the group set out at 9am from the Hirschman's Cement Hill Trailhead. Four hours later, five acres of habitat were restored. Hirschman's Pond, a former hydraulic mining site, provides habitat for many native mammals, amphibians, and birds. Native vegetation lines the four and a half miles of trails throughout the property. Removing invasive scotch broom creates more available water for native plants and generates a healthier edaphic environment.

For those interested in learning more about invasive species control, maintaining a healthy ecosystem, and volunteering within the community, contact Sierra Streams Institute,

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South Yuba River Citizens League, or The Sierra Fund. These environmental nonprofit groups are based in Nevada City, CA and continue to work hard to keep the Yuba watershed and surrounding areas healthy and prosperous.

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