



Central California Consortium



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- 2007 Sacramento State Fair Leadership Camp
- Hispanic Youth Symposium
- 2007 Great Outdoors Event
- 2007 RAP Camp Trip
- Sequoia-Kings Canyon Expedition

Much More!

2007 SACRAMENTO STATE FAIR LEADERSHIP CAMP -DENNY MAR

"Everywhere we go (*everywhere we go*), people wanna know (*people wanna know*), who we are (*who we are*), so we tell them (*so we tell them*), we are the green (*we are the green*), Generation Green (*Generation Green*)... go green on three, go green on three...1...2...3..GO GREEN!"

This is the chant that was heard at the start of every morning and at the end of every day at this years Sacramento State Fair Leadership Camp. For the 9th consecutive year, the Central California Consortium sent a group of 30 talented and bright young leaders from the Central Valley to Sacramento, Ca to work at the Camp Smokey exhibition at the Cal Expo State Fair.

From August 16 - September 3, 2007 students from Reedley, Orange Cove, and Edison High Schools were brought together to live under the same roof and learn the true meaning of independence, responsibility, and leadership. Through a highly competitive selection process, students were selected to assist the US Forest Service in educating the public about fire safety and fire prevention. Students communicated to the public in both English and Spanish, working various colored houses (each with its own fire prevention message) and educated not only children, but adults about the importance of fire safety, and how to protect and preserve our public lands.

This experience was more than just a job opportunity for the students, as they all participated in a leadership camp which taught them public speaking, time management, responsibility, interpersonal skills, teamwork, career talks/education development, money management, and most importantly how to be a productive citizen. We would like to send a

HUGE thanks to all of the Generation Green participants and chaperones as they did an amazing job this year, and we would also like to thank our partners: Fire Management Unit Region 5, Bureau of Land Management, Cal Fire, National Park Service, and Sacramento City Fire Department for all of their help with this event. GO GREEN !!!

Above Pictures: **(top left)** Session two students teaching the public about good and bad fires. **(center)** Session one students starting the day with Generation Green chant. **(bottom left)** Maria Ceja, Session one student, teaching a family what to do if their home catches fire.

DIRECTORS MESSAGE

"The CCC has been very busy over the past few months hosting and participating in various community events. Our Sacramento State Fair Leadership camp and the Hispanic Youth Symposium helped build our youth into leaders in their communities, and the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Expedition and RAP Camp taught our youth how to protect, conserve, and enjoy our public lands. This has been enjoyable and productive last few months, and I would like to thank my staff for their hard work and dedication."



- JAMES OFEDAL
CCC DIRECTOR



Education

Hispanic Youth Symposium

- DENNY MAR

Last year, the Central California Consortium (CCC) played an intricate part in bringing the first-ever Hispanic Youth Symposium (HYS) to the West Coast when it brought this nationally recognized conference to Fresno, Ca. This year, the CCC played an important role in not only developing our local youth into leaders for a second year, but it also helped develop future leaders on a national level.

The CCC and USDA Forest Service played a key role this year in helping to plan, organize, and coordinate the 2nd Annual Fresno HYS on August 3-5, 2007, and for the second year CCC Director Jim Oftedal served as Chair for the event. The Symposium was held at the CSU Fresno campus and it brought together over 120 high school students from across the central valley to receive the tools, skills, and encouragement they need for success. The HYS is a three day/two night conference for rising juniors and seniors in high school. Its purpose is to empower the youth by exposing them to local and national Latina/o leaders, as well as give them the skills they need to succeed in not only college, but in life.



The US Forest Service had a strong presence at this year's event, as Deputy Regional Forester Jim Pena served as a keynote speaker during the opening ceremony, and Sequoia National Forest supervisor Tina Terrell served as a panelist for the careers in public service workshop. Terri Drivas, USDA Forest Service Recreational Officer also participated as a career panelist and shared her experiences with the Forest Service. On top of the hundreds of hours of preparation and organization time that the CCC staff put into the event, CCC staff members also participated at various levels within the symposium such as Resident Assistants, workshop facilitators, judges, speakers, and panelist.

The CCC also had an impact on the youth on a national level by providing guidance and support this year for the 1st Bay Area Hispanic Youth Symposium (BAHYS) which was held in Moraga, CA on June 29 - July 1, 2007 and 3rd Annual Maryland Hispanic Youth Symposium (MHYS) held in Baltimore, MD on July 19-21, 2007.

The Hispanic Youth Symposium is a tremendous event that the CCC uses as a vehicle to expose the youth to visible role models who work in the Forest Service, and to spread the message of environmental awareness, higher education, and career opportunities within the Forest Service. The HYS continues to impact youth on a national and local level, and we will continue to support this great event. Look for the 3rd annual Fresno Hispanic Youth Symposium to be held on July 24-27, 2008 at the CSU Fresno campus. For more information on the Symposium, please visit the Hispanic Youth Symposium website hispanicyouth.org

Above pictures: (Top right) Southern California Consortium Program Assistant/Internship Coordinator Angelina Rios (Blue Shirt) with her familia at FHYS. (Smaller pictures) from left to right, CCC Assistant Director Lily Nieves speaking to students about her experience with the Forest Service at BAHYS, CCC Outreach Coordinator Denny Mar with the Resident Assistance he helped coordinate at the MHYS, CCC Director Jim Oftedal entertaining the students during the talent show of FHYS. (Picture on left) of Deputy Regional Forester Jim Pena giving his keynote speech at FHYS.

Community

12TH ANNUAL Hmong NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

- TOU THAO

The 12th Annual Hmong National Development Conference (HND) was held in Detroit, Michigan on April 12-15, 2007 at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center. The Central California Consortium (CCC) Asian Community Liaison, Tou Thao, attended this national conference. The HND conference consisted of various workshops which promote higher education, help sustain the Hmong culture and heritage, empower youth through leadership development, and giving back to the community. The theme was “Hmong footprints, cultivating a vibrant Hmong culture”. There were over 500 local and international attendees.



By attending the conference, Tou Thao was able to network with other participants and share information about the USDA Forest Service and the CCC. He highlighted how the CCC works with the underserved community in the central valley and that it was recently expanded to add Northern and Southern locations. Tou also shared how the CCC works with the Hmong community by linking natural resources to the community.

Overall, the trip was a success as Tou was able to connect with Hmong leaders throughout the country. By attending the conference, Tou was able to learn and understand more about his culture and heritage and provide information about the USDA Forest Service and the CCC. Tou was exposed to past and contemporary issues and as well as the Hmong communities plan for a better future.

Above Picture: CCC Hmong Liason Tou Thao (Left) with the Chairs of the Hmong National Development Conference.

Picture Below: (From left to right) CCC Outreach Coordinator, Denny Mar, CSUF Student, Sarah Rios, CSUF Student Blanca Rosas, CCC Environmental Educator, Huan Mercado in Chicago, IL.



78TH ANNUAL LEAGUE OF LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- DENNY MAR

Chicago, IL, or the “Windy City”, is an urban and cultural metropolis with sights and sounds unlike any other city in the world. With buildings so tall they seem to reach the heavens, and a vibrant and lively energy that could keep even Peter Pan young, Chicago was the perfect place to host the 78th annual League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Conference.

The Central California Consortium (CCC) sent two staff members and two California State University, Fresno (CSUF) students to the LULAC National Conference in Chicago, IL on July 10-14, 2007. They learned about current issues and trends within the Latino community and served as the face and voice for environmental issues in the central valley. The LULAC conference is a premier Hispanic convention that draws over 15,000 people each year including the top leaders from government, business, and the Hispanic community. CCC Director Jim Oftedal mentions, “as a leader of environmental issues in the central valley, it is important for us to share the needs and concerns of our communities on a national level. It is also important for us to share our best practices and success stories in the underserved communities”.

Community

2007 GREAT OUTDOORS @ CHUKCHANSI PARK

- DENNY MAR

What does a typical Fresno summer look like? One-hundred plus degree weather, kids eagerly anticipating the arrival of the paletero (ice cream) man, sweaty motorist frantically waiting for the stop light to turn green in order to get some air circulation in a car that does not have air conditioning; these are the sights a typical Fresno summer brings. However, another sight Fresno summers bring is the Central California Consortium's (CCC) annual Great Outdoors event.

On June 22, 2007, the CCC held its 5th annual Great Outdoors event, where it invited over 200 central valley youth and their families to the Chukchansi baseball stadium in Fresno to participate in an environmental awareness fair. The theme of the event was protecting, preserving, and enjoying public lands. This event also incorporated other community organizations who promoted public health and safety.

This was a tremendous event that brought together CCC partners from all over the community such as: Blue Cross, National Park Service, USDA Food Safety and Inspection, USDA Forest



Service, CSU Fresno, Boys and Girls club, and the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission. It was a great opportunity for the youth of the central valley to receive valuable information on the various community organizations. All participants took part in a "scavenger hunt", going from booth to booth receiving information, and in the end getting a "special reward" for their efforts. After the fair, all participants were invited to stay to watch a Fresno Grizzlies baseball game. The best part of the event came after the game, where 80 kids were selected to camp-out overnight in the middle of the baseball field. Each child received their very own sleeping bag (which they got to take home) and played a variety of different outdoor activities.

The Great Outdoors event is an important community activity the CCC hosts every year. This event gives the CCC the opportunity to bring the joys of the outdoors to kids in the community who do not have the means to enjoy it otherwise. For the past five years, this event has given the youth of the central valley the opportunity to learn about various community organizations, as well as learn the message of environmental protection and conservation. We would like to send a HUGE thanks to all of our partners who help make this event possible. We look forward in hosting the 6th annual Great Outdoors event next year!

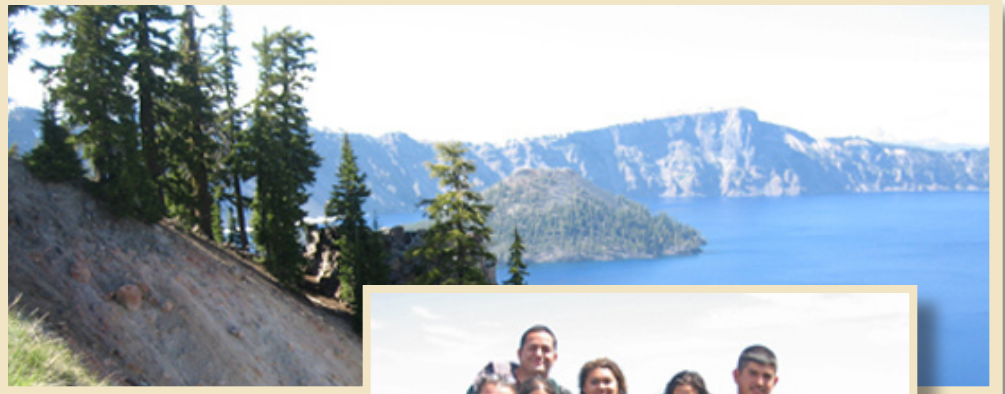
Above Pictures: (*top*) kids visiting the Sierra National Forest booth. (*middle*) Boys and Girls club and EOC participants taking a group picture with Smokey the Bear. (*bottom*) CCC Outreach Coordinator Denny Mar handing out a meal ticket to one of the local youth.

Community

RAP Camp 2007

- Julissa Gonzalez

Learning about the stars, investigating animal forensic cases, and attending a pow wow hosted by the Modoc Indians; these are just a few of the exciting activities students experienced at Resource and People Camp (RAP Camp). This event was held on June 17-23, 2007 at the Winema National Forest in Oregon. Every year over fifty high school students participate in this seven day, six night camp. RAP Camp provides students an opportunity to experience the outdoors and learn about history, the environment, animals, and different Forest Service careers. Students learn about hydrology, wildlife, botany, recreation, fire ecology, geology, forestry, and archeology.



This year, the CCC took 7 Generation Green student to Oregon to participate in this event. These courageous students were truly able to expand their horizons and grow from their experiences at RAP Camp. Most, having never left the central valley, were a little scared but excited to know what adventures lied ahead. The students were accompanied by chaperones Gloria Valencia (Orange Cove High school Spanish Teacher) and Eduardo Perez (Citrus middle school counselor), as well as CCC Job Placement Coordinator Julissa Gonzalez and CCC Environmental Educator Huan Mercado.

Generation Green students were able to become more independent, confident, and open to new experiences at RAP Camp. Friendships were made and numbers were exchanged. When RAP Camp came to an end and Generation Green headed back to Fresno County they were glad to return to their normal lives, families, and friends. However, one thing is for sure, the students will never forget the week of RAP Camp 2007.

Above Pictures: (*top right corner*) landscape of Crater Lake in Oregon. Group picture of Generation Green students and counselors (names from back, left to right: Eddie Perez (Citrus Middle School counselor), Gloria Valencia (Orange Cove High spanish teacher), Nadia Andrade (Orange Cove High student), Sari Huerta (Orange Cove High student), Janet (Orange Cove High student), Huan Mercado (CCC Staff member), Vicky Perez (Reedley High School student), Brenda (Orange Cove High student), Judith Morales (Orange Cove High student), Julissa Gonzalez (CCC staff member), Juana (Orange Cove high Student). (*Left*) Generation Green student Brenda examining water mites from a near by pond.

Education

2007 Sequoia-Kings Canyon Expedition

- HUAN MERCADO

On May 4th 2007, nine Generation Green students from Reedley and Orange Cove High School embarked on a life changing experience through the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Expedition. Camping, hiking, and experiencing nature were things very out of the norm for many of these students and chaperones. That was until they experienced the natural, wild, and untouched beauty of their public lands. The expedition was more than a weekend trip to Sequoia and Kings



Canyon National Park; it was an opportunity to challenge oneself physically and mentally.

While in the parks, the students learned about the natural history of their public lands and how preservation is vital for the survival of wildlife and the vegetation that reside in this region of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The students also had the opportunity to camp under giants, Giant Sequoias, an opportunity not given to the general public. Over the four day period, the students backpacked, camped, learned about the importance of food safety around the camp, and became skilled at identifying vegetation and reading maps. The students embraced their responsibility to care for the land, while being good guests and enjoying themselves. They learned National Park Service's principles which are vital to the goal of preservation, for example: pack it in pack it out, leave no trace, be fire safe, leave what you find, dispose of waste properly, and respect wildlife. Reedley High School student, Diego Lemus stated:

“This has been a wonderful experience. There isn't enough words to describe all the feelings that I've felt during the trip. I was happy and excited waking up in the morning wondering what the next adventure would be, and amazed at how huge the sequoia trees were. This journey into the wilderness was one of the best experiences I have had, and I shared all my stories with my family and friends back home.”

Thanks to the partnership between the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Expedition and the Central California Consortium (CCC), the Generation Green club (sponsored by the CCC) is able to bi-annually take students from underserved communities to experience their public lands. National Park Service educators, Savannah Boiano and Stephanie Strickland, served as chaperones and made it possible for the students to have an educational and enjoyable experience. CCC staff members, Tou Thao and Huan Mercado, served as chaperones and found the experience to be a one of kind journey.



Above Pictures: **(top)** group picture of Sequoia-Kings Canyon Expedition participants. Names from back row left to right: Tou Thao (CCC Staff), Maria Ceja (Orange Cove High), Cynthia Campos (Reedley High), Selene Medina (Orange Cove), Magie Hernandez (Orange Cove), Claudia Garcia (Reedley High), Diego Valencia (Orange Cove), Jorge Rivera (Reedley High), Armando Rivera (Reedley High), Stephanie Strickland (educator), Huan Mercado (CCC Staff), Diego Lemus (Reedley High). **(right)** Reedley High school student, Cynthia Campos, getting dinner ready.

Education

GENERATION GREEN Update

- JUANA ROSAS

Throughout the school year the Generation Green (GG) club is very active within the school and in the community. However, this summer students were involved in many activities in and out of the state. Some of these activities were Resources and People (RAP) Camp in Oregon, the Sacramento State Fair Leadership Camp (Camp Smokey) in Sacramento, Crystal Caves, Sequoia-Kings Canyon Expedition, Wonder Valley leadership retreat, and the Reedley Fiesta Parade.



Above Picture: Orange Cove GG students acting a little silly.

It has been a busy summer for the GG club, and even though the summer is over, the GG club is planning to have various activities to raise money and to celebrate their Hispanic heritage.

For the Mexican holiday “Dia de los Muertos”, GG members voted on having an “Altar” to commemorate their loved ones that have past away. Students brought pictures, art, flowers, and cordially invited other students on campus in honoring their loved ones.

The GG Club at Orange Cove High School planned, built, and decorated a haunted house for Halloween and held a “Churro” sale on campus to raise money for our annual University visit. GG students also helped A.L. Conner Elementary School with their festival by providing a face painting booth and talked to the kids about fire safety. We are also planning various educational activities such resume workshops, financial aid workshops, and how to apply for university workshops. Please stay tune for our future activities.

GG club officer elections have also been held, and I am proud to announce our clubs new officers:

Orange Cove:

President: Sarai Huante
Vice- President: Saul Torres
Secretary: Nadia Andrade
Treasurer: Maria Rodriguez
Event Coordinator: Ruben Juarez

Reedley High:

President: Maria Ceja
Vice-President: Jose Acosta
Secretary: Manuel Olvera
Treasurer: Cristabeth Rodriguez
Event Coordinator: Diana Hernandez

Congratulations to our new officers. I am proud of all of you for taking on these leadership roles and I know that the GG club is in good hands!

Education

2007 CCC SUMMER

INTERNS

- JULISSA GONZALEZ

This year over 200 students applied for CCC summer internships, 85 students were selected and successfully completed STEP/SCEP internships throughout California and Washington. In addition, the CCC is also proud to announce the conversion of 5 SCEP students who have graduated and converted to permanent Forest Service positions: Rigoberto Torres, Richard Telles, Raul Moreno, Jose R. Rivera, and Clinton Wade.



The CCC formally celebrated the completion of these internships by hosting the 11th Annual Intern Award Ceremony on August 9, 2007. About 45 students presented this year, making it the largest participating group ever. Students proudly presented on their summer internship experiences to an audience of Forest Service employees, community partners, family and friends. Words of experiences and gratitude echoed throughout the ceremony as students expressed their new awareness and appreciation for the outdoors. Members of the audience were impressed with the well prepared presentations. Ofelia Gamez, Director of the College Assistance Migrant Program at CSU, Fresno was our Mistress of Ceremony, providing students with motivational words. Juana Rosas, CCC Rural Coordinator, served as the keynote speaker of the night. She shared her inspirational story, as well as tips for success.



The students worked hard on their displays and were exceptional presenters thanks to the public speaking workshop hosted by Teri Drivas, Sierra National Forest Recreation Officer, and Joe Reyes, Fire Management Specialist.



CCC Director, James Oftedal, stated, "After hearing from each student tonight, it is clear that these students have the potential to be our future Forest Service leaders. A special thanks to all our Forest Service, community partners, and especially the parents that have all contributed to our success."

Above pictures: (*top right*) group picture of some of the CCC interns at the 11th annual intern award ceremony. (*Right from top to bottom*) two CCC summer interns working at Ross Crossing in the Sierra National Forest maintaining a river dam. Two CCC interns working with their supervisor, Dave Smolgin, planning out the day's work.

Employment

ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT PROJECT

- BLANCA ROSAS

In efforts to maintain the Sierra National Forest headquarters greener, the Environmental Footprint project was created. One of the efforts of this new project is to maintain the natural resources in our region and become smart consumers. Throughout the nation, efforts to reduce waste production and stop global warming has been emphasized. The Sierra National Forest wanted to join this cause by implementing and providing its staff with knowledge of the different ways in which the Forest Service can Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle, both at work and at home.

One of the ways in which the Forest Service has implemented their environmental efforts is by replacing their vehicles with Hybrids (these vehicles save money on gasoline while protecting the air). Another change the Forest Service has implemented is reducing their electricity usage by decreasing the amount of time office and bathroom lights are on and placing their computers in hibernation mode when they are not being used for a long period of time. Using computer files instead of paper files is another way to help lessen the impact on the environment. Placing recycling bins around the office and instructing employees to set their printer default to print on both sides are all ways the Sierra National Forest is helping the environment. The Sierra National Forest is working to make our environment a greener and healthier place. Together we can make a difference!



CCC WELCOMES NEW ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR

- Lily NIEVES



The Central California Consortium (CCC) would like to welcome Huan Mercado to the staff. As the Environmental Educator, he is responsible for providing K-12 environmental education and assisting the Generation Green club with leadership activities. For example, he recently served as a chaperone for a Sequoia-Kings Canyon Expedition wilderness campout held in the Sequoia National Forest and the Resources and People (RAP) Camp in Oregon.

CCC Director, James Oftedal, stated, "With the addition of Huan, we add another great role model to the CCC staff. His outgoing personality will inspire Latino youth to graduate from high school, continue their education, and teach them to be good stewards of public land."

Huan is a leader who emerged from Dinuba, CA; a rural underserved Hispanic community. He received an AS in Forestry and Parks Technology from Reedley College. He plans to transfer to Cal Poly to major in Forestry and Natural Resources. Huan has three seasons of experience as a Forest Service intern working on timber marking and wild land firefighting. Huan would like to have a long career with the Forest Service and become a Forest Supervisor one day.

Miscellaneous

WELCOME BACK JUANA!

- DENNY MAR

“Lily, Julissa, clear another desk off at the office, Juanas back, and she brought a new member to the team!”

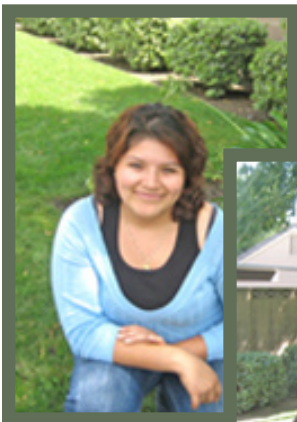
The staff here at the Central California Consortium (CCC) would like to welcome back Juana Rosas, the CCC Rural Coordinator, to the team after a two month leave while she prepared for the arrival of her new son, Aztlan Rosas.

On July 2, 2007, Juana gave birth to a 6lb 12oz baby boy. About being a new mother, Juana mentions that “nothing will warm your heart like curious eyes looking at you. It is then you realize that life is worthwhile and there are so many reasons to make this world a better place” Juana is enthusiastic to get back into the high school scene and develop the minds of our future leaders. “I couldn’t wait to get back to working with the Generation Green students. I feel like they are my very own kids and I am anxious to see what they have been up to”.

Juana has been our Rural Coordinator for a year now, serving as the Generation Green club advisor at both Orange Cove and Reedley High School. Juana has done a great job exposing our rural youth to a variety of community, environmental, and educational opportunities, and the CCC is glad to have her back on the team. Welcome back Juana!



Blanca Rosas



Jessica Marban



CCC STAR INTERNS

- Lily NIEVES

The Central California Consortium (CCC) staff would like to congratulate Blanca Rosas and Jessica Marban for completing a summer internship with the CCC. James Oftedal, CCC Director, stated, “Blanca and Jessica came in and took on two important, complex projects and did a great job. They brought positive energy and served as role models for valley Latino youth.”

Blanca Rosas served as the Environmental Footprint Intern. Her main duties included conducting research on recycling resources, providing recycling bins, and distributing information to Forest Service employees. Blanca is from Orange Cove, CA and is currently a senior at California State University, Fresno majoring in criminology.

Jessica Marban served as the Fresno Hispanic Youth Symposium Intern. Her main duties included organizing student outreach, assisting with committee meetings, and following up with student participants. Jessica is from Fresno, CA and a current senior at California State University, Fresno majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Miscellaneous

Supervisors....

Are You Looking for an Intern???

Students....

Are You Looking for an Internship???

For over 10 years the CCC has provided quality interns to work in a variety of Forest Service positions throughout California, as well as other states. If you are a supervisor and are looking for a bright and talented intern to work for you during the summer, let us find you that intern!

Students, if you are looking for summer employment where you receive great work experience all while getting paid, then our summer internships are for you. We offer positions in a variety of fields, that span many majors.

If you are a supervisor or student, and are interested, please contact Julissa Gonzalez, CCC Job Placement Coordinator at 559-297-0706 ext.4962.



Our Mission

The Central California Consortium is an environmental education, outreach, and recruitment program. The CCC serves as bridge between the USDA Forest Service, underserved areas, and community partners. Our mission is to diversify the Forest Service workforce by encouraging careers in natural resources, higher education, and employment through mentoring, leadership, and community outreach efforts. We are committed to providing an all inclusive, nurturing, respectful, and positive work environment.

For More Information:
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Visit us on the Web: www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/cc_consortium