



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE INVASIVE SPECIES VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is looking for motivated individuals interested in helping to conserve California's wildlife and habitat. In August 2015, CDFW's Invasive Species Program implemented a *Nerodia* watersnake eradication project in the Sacramento area and is soliciting volunteers interested in assisting with trapping and removing invasive watersnakes from an established population.

Nerodia are non-venomous watersnakes native to the eastern and southeastern United States. These snakes were introduced to California and have established populations in Sacramento, Placer, and Los Angeles Counties. *Nerodia* threaten California's native fish and wildlife species through predation and competition for resources.

ACTIVITIES

- Daily checking of partially submerged aquatic minnow (funnel) traps
- Identification of *Nerodia* spp. vs. native species
- Hand removal of live snakes from traps and transferring to bags
- Data collection and documentation

TIME FRAME

- Date: Late March – October 2016 (7 days/week)
- Time: 1-3 hours per work day (mornings or occasional evenings)
- Scheduling: Flexible and will be scheduled in advance

WORKSITE DESCRIPTION

The eradication project takes place in Roseville, Placer County. The worksites include wetland/marsh habitat in city open-space areas, vegetated creek and streambeds, drainages, and golf course waterways/natural areas. The environmental conditions vary from shallow to waist-deep water, which is typically stagnant and surrounded by dense, overgrown vegetation. Terrain is vegetated and uneven. Volunteers are responsible for their own transportation to and from the worksites, but can be provided waders and supplies.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

No experience necessary; on-the-job training will be provided. Must be, or able to become, comfortable handling live snakes, able to work outside in all weather conditions and be able to navigate through overgrown vegetation and over uneven terrain. Must be reliable, able to work independently, and enjoy working in the outdoors.

IF INTERESTED:

Visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/invasives for information and to access the CDFW volunteer coordination system. To join the project and sign up on the calendar, volunteers will need to create a profile within the coordination system.

For more information regarding the project or assistance with signing up, contact Valerie Cook-Fletcher at Valerie.Cook-Fletcher@wildlife.ca.gov, (916) 654-4267.