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Walker Basin Conservancy gives area youth experience in resource management.

The Youth Conservation Crew will assist with restoration projects throughout the Walker Basin.

YERINGTON, NEV.— June 5, 2017—Six Yerington High School seniors and recent graduates will gain valuable experience this summer with Walker Basin Conservancy’s Youth Conservation Crew. The Youth Conservation Crew (YCC) program began May 30 and will end Aug. 30.

Walker Basin Conservancy manages several thousand acres of land in the Walker Basin, including Rafter 7 Ranch, Flying M Ranch, and Pitchfork Ranch along the East Walker River. This year the YCC will assist the Walker Basin Conservancy with restoration projects on these properties, along with projects at Wilson Canyon and Walker Lake.

“The creation of these seasonal jobs for communities in the Walker Basin fosters a spirit of teamwork, environmental interest, and knowledge of resource management,” said Lee Davis, Walker Basin Conservancy’s Stewardship Program Director. Each student will earn \$10 an hour and work up to 40 hours per week.

YCC will implement numerous conservation, re-vegetation, and trail maintenance projects while developing teamwork skills and a lasting connection to the outdoors. The goal is to restore critical habitats within the Walker Basin through riparian and upland rehabilitation efforts, ultimately benefiting Walker Lake.

Dan Pedersen, a retired teacher and geologist from Yerington, is the YCC Crew Lead and will be coordinating the group’s work. This is the second summer Pedersen has worked with the YCC. Pedersen is currently leading the students as they work to restore the Wilson Canyon Trail by repairing the damage done over the winter months.

“I am so fortunate to work with these students,” said Pedersen. “They are all self-motivating and hardworking. It makes me feel young at heart to work alongside them.”

The teens will spend the summer learning more about natural resources management while they gain exposure to career opportunities in the field of conservation.





ABOUT

The Walker Basin Conservancy (WBC) was established in 2014 to support development and implementation of the Walker Basin Restoration Program (WBRP or Program) through land and water stewardship activities on properties associated with the Program's mission. The WBC has stewardship responsibility on thousands of acres of land and assets in the Walker Basin. Currently land planning and implementation activities are underway on all properties. Planning efforts focus on assessing public use opportunities, conservation values, long-term land ownership and stewardship, and active and passive revegetation and restoration activities.

In addition, the WBC is actively involved in managing water assets associated with the Program, further developing conservation opportunities in the Walker Basin and overall outreach and education related to the long-term objectives of the Program.

