

## State Water Resources Control Board

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### STUDENTS TO WADE THROUGH HIGH SIERRA STREAMS FOR SCIENTIFIC DATA ON FOREST MANAGEMENT

**EL DORADO COUNTY** - Four El Dorado County high schools will participate in a four-day educational excursion this week through mountainous streams in the rugged Sierra to learn about stream water quality and to collect data for a forestry conservation project.

About 35 students from Golden Sierra, El Dorado, Union Mine and Oak Ridge high schools will set-up camp Wednesday at Wench Creek Campground, on the Union Valley Reservoir. The reservoir is north of Highway 50, along Ice House Road, at an elevation of nearly 4,000 feet in the Sierra. It is part of the American River Watershed.

“The best way to learn about watersheds is to actually wade out into the streams, and to physically experience every aspect of this water sampling activity,” said Dominic Gregorio, citizen-monitoring coordinator with the State Water Resources Control Board. The Board is helping fund the educational “summit” through water bond money. “The students have a wonderful time, and learn a tremendous amount. They also provide a valuable resource for water quality experts.”

Students will receive primers on water sampling and data collection from hydrologists and environmental experts from the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Board. Sampling data will aid the U.S. Forest Service and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in developing a management plan for the Sierra environment. The student program is in its third year.

Students will sample water from the South Rubicon and Jones Creek Streams. They will also study the following: water quality monitoring; mapping through Geographic Information System (GIS) equipment; botany; stream surveying; pebble counts to measure sedimentation levels; aquatic insect communities; stream flow and discharge rates habitat assessment.

“In addition to these important science skills, students will also learn more about careers in natural resources by taking part in a valuable environmental protection project,” said Gregorio, who coordinates similar citizen monitoring events throughout the Sierra and Central Valley areas.

For more information, or to visit the site for photo opportunities, contact Gregorio at (916) 341-5488.