

CARCD 72nd Annual Conference
“Dynamic Partnerships, Relevant Results”
November 2017 – Sacramento, CA



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Effectively Engaging Youth In Habitat Restoration



Center for Land-Based Learning Mission:

Inspiring and motivating people of all ages to promote a healthy interplay between agriculture, nature, and society as leaders in their communities.

SLEWS

Changing Hearts, Minds and Landscapes



SLEWS is All About Partnerships




“You learn a lot. There are moments where you will be in total awe. Gain a new respect for natural life. It’s enriching to give back to the environment instead of take, take, take.” Adrienne



A Typical SLEWS Field Day Agenda

8:45 – 9:45	Opening Circle and Introductory Activities
9:40-10:00	Tool Safety and Demonstration(s)
10-12:00	Restoration work
12-12:30	Lunch
12:30-12:45	Energizer Game
12:45-1:30	Hands-on Learning Activity
1:30-1:45	Reflection Activity
1:45-2:00	Closing Circle and Adjourn





“It really opened my mind about having a career involving outside work in nature.” Elizabeth



“The most valuable part was being able to make a difference with the simplest things that turned out to be part of a bigger picture.” Torionna, Sacramento High

17 Years of SLEWS

- SLEWS statewide since 2001
 - 231 habitat projects
 - 868 field days
 - 6,700 students
 - 68,000 native trees and shrubs
 - 310,000 native grass, sedge and rush plugs
 - 742 bird boxes, bee blocks



Other Impacts



Student & Landowner Education Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) Program

Evaluation Report | 2016

Executive Summary

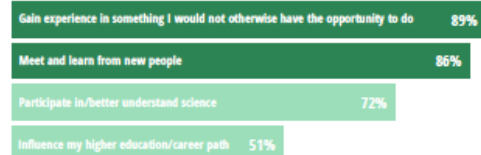
The Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) Program engages California high school students and teachers in meaningful environmental stewardship that allows students to practice scientific skills, learn from natural resource professionals, and expand on classroom concepts, while accomplishing real habitat restoration projects on farms, ranches and open spaces.

As a part of the SLEWS Program's 15-year anniversary, The Center for Land-Based Learning contracted LPC to conduct the first external evaluation of the SLEWS program. After compiling results from 13 alumni interviews and 47 surveys, this evaluation highlights the impact of the SLEWS program in the areas of interpersonal growth, exposure to the agriculture industry, and environmental stewardship.

Interpersonal Growth

Alumni interviews and surveys alike show that SLEWS positively impacted the growth and development of alumni. Notably, many reported that SLEWS shaped their interpersonal growth. One alumnus highlighted how SLEWS helped him work in a team setting, stating "One of the biggest things I was able to take a way was working with a team, understanding the value of contributing, [and] how that can have a bigger impact than an individual effort." Other areas of growth for alumni include science achievement and engagement, and help in shaping higher education and career paths.

SLEWS participation helped most alumni gain new experiences and meet and learn from new people.



One of the biggest things I was able to take a way was **working with a team**, understanding the value of contributing, [and] how that **can have a bigger impact** than an individual effort.
- SLEWS Alumnus

- 89% of survey participants agreed that SLEWS helped them develop a stronger appreciation for the natural world.
- Overall, about half (51%) of respondents said SLEWS affected their higher education and career path.
- More than half (57%) of alumni said their current work or education is related to agriculture, the environment, or natural resources in some way.



CENTER *for* LAND-BASED LEARNING

SLEWS

ACADEMY

The SLEWS Academy consists of:

- ◆ A three-day Intensive Training
- ◆ Six Monthly Sessions
- ◆ One year of Individual Program Support.

Contact SLEWS Program Director, Matt Lechmaier to learn more.

Matt@landbasedlearning.org or 530-510-0365

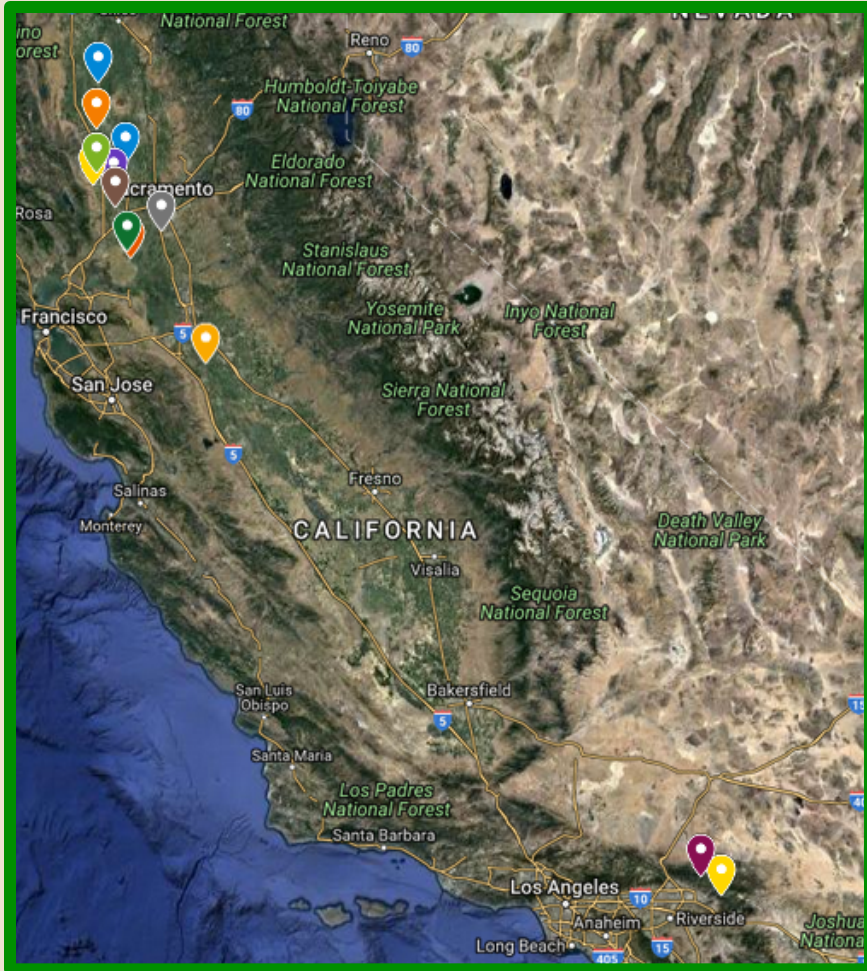


SLEWS Academy 2014 with East Merced RCD and East Stanislaus RCD



SLEWS Academy 2015 with Inland Empire RCD and Northern California Regional Land Trust

SLEWS Academy Participants



Elk Grove Water Agency

Florin RCD

East Stanislaus RCD

East Merced RCD

Grasslands Water District

Inland Empire RCD

Northern California Regional Land Trust

San Joaquin Office of Education

Take a look!

Landbasedlearning.org/slews-academy



Questions?

