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Contact: Kristi Winter
Public Outreach Director
Kings River Conservancy
559-301-4019
kristidwinter@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kings River Conservancy Receives an Outdoors for All grant

The Kings River Conservancy has been awarded an “Outdoors for All” grant for nearly \$214,000 for the purpose of developing a youth-led leadership program and encouraging youth to get outdoors.

The Youth Community Access is a grant program provided by the California Natural Resources Agency under the Newsom Administration to increase outdoor access in California.

The Kings River Conservancy is currently in the developing stages of creating a program that will provide youth, ages 10-18, with opportunities to gain skills and experience about leadership, mental wellness, career and life skills, and learning about the natural resources of the Kings River. In addition, the KRC Youth Led Program will give access to youth water safety training and certifications, as well as the learning about the cultural history of the Kings River area and local Native populations.

“With this youth led program, we will now be able to expand the opportunity for youth and get them outside to not only learn about science, but be able to see it, feel it and experience it with a “Learn by Doing” approach,” said Denise Jameson, Kings River Conservancy Youth Led Program Manager. “We are here to provide a service to youth, to give them knowledge, opportunities on how to better their lives, a way to give them those moments of awareness, and bask in the beauty of what nature has provided us.”

Each month the KRC Youth Led Program will focus on activities varying from tours and projects that focus on multiple areas. These areas could include: engineering, biology, natural sciences, cultural history, mental health, and water safety. State funding for the program will begin this summer. The date to begin the program is set for February 3, 2024 at the education pavilion near Pine Flat Dam.

“We have been given this fantastic opportunity to teach our youth that nature is a precious commodity, it is not limitless, and to provide the understanding that if they don’t join in on conservation efforts, they may lose that opportunity to enjoy it,” said Jameson.

Youth Community Access Program grants will fund nearly 71 projects throughout the state totaling nearly \$18 million.

As stated in the California Natural Resources Agency press release, projects will bring youth in underserved and low-income communities to parks, nature and places of cultural and historic significance. The grant will prioritize establishing spaces for people and nature to thrive in outdoor spaces, fostering belonging in the outdoors, connecting people and the outdoors, co-creating with communities through frequent and meaningful tribal consultation, building equitable career pathways, and aligning funding to achieve Outdoors for All in partnership with federal, state and non-governmental entities.

The Kings River Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging public safety and sound public conservation practices along the Kings River corridor from Pine Flat Dam to Highway 99. Their mission is to protect, enhance and educate people about the Kings River. They participate in functions such as invasive species removal, a trout incubator house to release trout into the river, adding warden patrols and maintaining safe public trails and access points along the river.

For more information about the Kings River Conservancy contact the Kings River Conservancy at 559-787-9500 or visit www.kingsriverconservancy.org.

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