

Jessica Leonard

Environmental Scientist, State Water Resources Control Board

Professional Summary

Environmental science professional with a focus on watershed management and solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Experience in statewide review, selection, and management of projects that help to reduce nonpoint source pollution, and development of water quality planning and guidance documents.

Skills

- Policy evaluation, research, and report writing on ways to approach and address current environmental and social challenges such as nonpoint source pollution, watershed management, and climate change mitigation and adaptation
 - Graduate courses completed in environmental assessment techniques, landscape ecology, wetlands ecology, coastal geoecology, energy and materials sustainability, and watershed management
 - Collaboration with government, non-profit, corporate, and private stakeholders on complex subjects
 - ArcGIS- spatial analysis, watershed delineation, image classification, general cartography
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Education

Antioch University New England | Keene, NH
Professional Science Master, Environmental Studies – 2018
Concentration in Sustainable Development and Climate Change

University of California, Davis | Davis, CA
Bachelor of Science, Biological Sciences – 2008
Emphasis in Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior
Minor in African and African American Studies

Professional Experience

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality | Sacramento, CA
January 2018- current

Environmental Scientist:

- Support planning, tracking, and reporting of nonpoint source control activities for Section 319(h) and Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund projects that implement management practices such as forest road improvements, large woody debris stream restoration, and streambank stabilization
- Track project management measure (MM) and management practice (MP) implementation, review and evaluate water quality information, and determine MM/MP effectiveness on improving water quality

- Serve as the statewide liaison for grazing and rangeland related activities including the development of a guidance document on livestock grazing management for water quality

Housatonic Valley Association | Cornwall, CT

January 2016- June 2017

Graduate Researcher: Assisted in the development of a Section 319(h) nonpoint source pollution grant funded watershed management plan including creating methodology, synthesizing current documentation, conducting fieldwork, researching, and writing a grant proposal.

Southwest Regional Planning Commission | Keene, NH

February 2016- October 2016

Graduate Research Assistant: Worked with the local Public Health Advisory Council to research the burdens that climate change will place on public health systems and identify vulnerable populations in order to create a Climate and Health Adaptation Plan through the CDC's Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework.

The Center for Civic Engagement | Keene, NH

February 2016- June 2016

Graduate Research Assistant: Planned and facilitated deliberative dialogue forums with community groups, politicians, government officials, and individuals to address challenging community issues, such as voter participation in the region.

Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience | Keene, NH

August 2015- February 2016

Graduate Research Assistant: Created a situational analysis for the Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy on the current breadth and depth of work being done on climate change mitigation in Vermont and how to engage in a way that emphasizes strengths of the organization and the added value they could bring to the field.

Congressional Progressive Caucus | Washington, DC

May 2015- August 2015

Fellow: Advocated for environmental justice and current social justice issues through research and planning with the caucus in the House of Representatives.

- Worked with the Sierra Club and others to draft and whip signatures for a letter to the EPA on more stringent ozone regulations
- Planned and held a forum on immigrant detainee facilities
- Drafted resolutions and official correspondence
- Researched social justice impacts from various environmental legislation

Center for Tropical Ecology and Conservation | Keene, NH

August 2014- June 2015

Outreach Coordinator: Conducted outreach with the school, local, regional, and international community to keep them informed and connected to the current work being done under the center and develop opportunities for student internships and collaborative research projects.

Texas Campaign for the Environment | Dallas, TX

March 2014- June 2014

Community Organizer: Informed and mobilized the communities in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex to protect public health and the environment through canvassing neighborhoods. Educated citizens about improving waste management and building organizational membership. Lobbied state legislators and local policy makers for environmental policies and informed and encouraged citizens to hold the government and businesses accountable to their concern for health, environmental, and economic issues.