

Position: Sacramento Valley Regional Director
Status: Full-time, Exempt
Location: Chico, Colusa or Sacramento, California
or home office in the Sacramento Valley
Reports to: Director of Development



Do you love the Central Valley? Are you passionate about creating a healthy environment where communities thrive? Do you believe in the power of rivers to connect people or the power of people to restore rivers? Do you get excited about working with diverse teams – like scientists, farmers, and entrepreneurs who turn big ideas into action? If you answered yes to these questions, River Partners wants to hear from you. Notwithstanding our noteworthy accomplishments and awards, the single best thing about River Partners is our people. Our staff is committed, creative, collaborative, and diverse. Together, we produce tangible, lasting results.

What We Do

A tenacious nonprofit founded in 1998, River Partners brings life back to California rivers. We advance an innovative model of conservation that harnesses the power of restored riverways to create a thriving future for the state’s environment and communities. We revive river landscapes, build critical wildlife corridors, and inspire hope for a healthy future. We advance this bold vision by blending modern farming practices, cutting-edge science, and diverse alliances. Each year, we plant hundreds of thousands of native trees and plants across thousands of acres. We are growing fast and looking for passionate individuals to help us increase the pace and scale of restoration.

Why We Do It

Healthy rivers are essential for a vibrant California. They provide fresh water for growing our food, economy, communities, and wildlife found nowhere else. Rivers support more species and in greater numbers than any other ecosystem in California – making our state a worldwide biodiversity hotspot. Yet just 5% of our native riverside habitat remains. What’s left needs reviving. The actions we take during this decade will decide California’s future. With their exponential benefits for wildlife, natural resources, and communities, healthy rivers are critical for a flourishing Golden State for generations to come.

Why Our Work Matters

Our work supports a range of wins for wildlife, flood safety, climate resiliency, water conservation, healthy communities, and local economies statewide. This includes supporting the recovery of dozens of imperiled species, boosting flood safety for communities in flood-prone regions, and growing California’s climate resilience by planting more than 2.5 million trees that capture 1 million tons of greenhouse gases each year.

We have led hundreds of major projects in more than 20 watersheds across nearly 17,000 acres throughout California. River Partners has restored more habitat along impaired California rivers than anyone else in the West.

Position description

The Sacramento Valley Regional Director works with the Directors of Development, Conservation and Science to identify and develop new river and floodplain restoration opportunities between Sacramento and Redding. The Regional Director will work closely with River Partners' collaborators to secure funds from local, state, and federal agencies to plan, design, permit, implement, and monitor multi-million dollar and multi-year river restoration projects. The Sacramento Valley Regional Director will be responsible for networking with restoration partners and evaluating the conservation landscape to identify new project opportunities and secure them for River Partners. Travel throughout the Sacramento Valley is required.

The Sacramento Valley Regional Director reports directly to the Development Director.

Travel for meetings with partners and visiting field sites is expected and could require more than 4 days per month.

Essential functions and responsibilities of this position include:

- Establish and coordinate productive partnerships with the agricultural landowners, local communities, conservation organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies to advance River Partners' mission and projects.
- Collaborate with River Partner's Science and Development teams to identify ecologically significant riparian protection and restoration sites that are ecologically significant.
- Prepare grant applications and develop associated budgets and scopes of work. Negotiate cooperative agreements to secure the funding necessary to successfully implement River Partners' projects.
- Support River Partners' President, Senior Managers, and Regional Staff in developing strategic plans, budgets, and marketing materials.
- Monitor, oversee and report strategic initiative progress on a quarterly basis to ensure strategy is within the goals and objectives of the organization.
- Develop scoping requests for subcontract work and enter into agreements to ensure that cost and quality expectations are met.
- Actively participate in regional planning efforts and coalitions such as the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (DWR), USFWS and CDFW endangered species recovery efforts, Battle Creek Working Group, and the Central Valley Salmon Partnership.
- Represent River Partners before the public, elected officials, agencies, stakeholders, and non-profits to generate support for River Partners programs.
- Other duties as requested.

Essential Knowledge Skills and Abilities

- Commitment and enthusiasm to carry out River Partners mission.
- Must enjoy working outdoors with diverse people and organizations to get things done.
- Grant writing experience and the ability to delegate and coordinate numerous tasks to meet a hard deadline.
- Creatively solve problems and learn new skills.

- Possess knowledge of ecological restoration techniques and California plants, riparian ecology, hydrology, soils and /or wildlife and the ability to effectively communicate biological and marketing information.
- Ability to work both independently and within a team environment.
- Experience working with California and Federal environmental permitting including NEPA/CEQA, ESA, CDFW Code, California Water Code, Clean Water Act Section 404/401, etc.
- Demonstrate good organizational skills, ability to work under multiple deadlines, and flexibility to handle changing priorities. Must be able to remain dedicated and focused on multiple tasks.
- Excellent verbal, analytical, organizational, and written skills.
- Integrity and ethics beyond reproach.
- Commitment and enthusiasm to carry out River Partners mission.

Minimum Qualifications

- Graduate degree desired in natural resources management, ecology, engineering, watershed science, environmental planning, agriculture, or related field. JD, MBA, MPA all encouraged to apply. Relevant work experiences may be a substitute for college degree.
- Minimum of five years of appropriate work experience with an emphasis on grant writing experience or proven ability to align diverse stakeholders with a vision. Candidates with significantly more experience will not be overqualified.
- Have hands-on experience working with Federal, State, and local government grants, to ensure that projects are managed within scope, budget, and regulatory compliance such as prevailing wage and labor compliance.
- Demonstrate an understanding of environmental permitting requirements and environmental restoration projects.
- Proven ability to meet, delegate, and/or coordinate a series of tasks on a tight deadline.
- Experience working with Microsoft Office Suite software.

To apply email your resume, cover letter and 3 references to:

Jobs@riverpartners.org, Subject: Sacramento Valley Regional Director Position

Or send an application via mail to:

River Partners

Attn: Sacramento Valley Regional Director Position

580 Vallombrosa Avenue, Chico CA 95926.

Please no telephone calls.

River Partners is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action (EEO/AA) Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, religion, age, status as a protected veteran, status as an individual with disability, or any other protected group status or non-job-related characteristic as directed by law.