



# Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé

*the California Native Plant Society & California Department of Fish & Wildlife Combined Method*

**Dates:** July 19-21, 2016 (Tuesday - Thursday)

**Location:** UC White Mountain Research Center's Crooked Creek Station, outside of Bishop, CA

**Instructors:** Julie Evens, Vegetation Program Director; Jennifer Buck-Diaz, Vegetation Ecologist, CNPS

**Registration:** \$555 CNPS Members / \$585 Non-Members, INCLUDES MEALS & LODGING for 2 nights

**Target Audience:** Professional and student botanists, ecologists, resource managers, and conservationists. Participants should have an initial understanding of the subject matter and basic plant identification skills.

**Description:** This course will be a combination of lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling with a focus on collecting data using the CNPS-CDFW combined vegetation rapid assessment/relevé method. We will discuss applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping, how to document rare natural communities, and how vegetation information fits into planning documents.

## Participants will learn:

- Applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping
- How vegetation sampling is used for mapping projects
- How to collect data using the CNPS-CDFW combined vegetation rapid assessment/relevé method.
- How to document rare natural communities
- How vegetation types and attributes can be mapped
- How vegetation information fits into County General Management Plans, CEQA, HCP's, NCCPs, etc.

## Schedule (subject to change):

### Tuesday, July 19

Meet at Crooked Creek Station. Indoor lecture, classroom setting.

2:00 pm      Introductions and Overview: Vegetation sampling, analysis, classification, and mapping.  
5:00 pm      Break for the day

### Wednesday, July 20

Field exercises at Crooked Creek Station all day.

8:30 am      Field exercises: introduction to the combined vegetation rapid assessment/relevé method; estimating percent cover of vegetation layers  
Noon          Lunch in the field (will be provided)  
1:00 pm      Field exercise in small groups: conduct a field survey using the vegetation rapid assessment method  
4:30 pm      Regroup for Q&A  
5:00 pm      Break for the day

### Thursday, July 21

Field exercises at Crooked Creek Station all day.

8:30 am      Review rapid assessment protocol  
9:30 am      Select vegetation types for sampling, conduct first rapid assessment  
Noon          Lunch in the field (will be provided)  
1:00 pm      Conduct second rapid assessment, using a different vegetation type  
3:30 pm      Q&A; submit vegetation rapid assessment field forms for Certificate of Completion; course evaluations  
4:00 pm      Workshop concludes

**Venue:** This workshop will be held at the Crooked Creek Station, part of the University of California's White Mountain Research Center. Crooked Creek is located in bristlecone/limber pine forest in the White Mountains, about 1.5 hours from Bishop, CA. All classroom and field portions of this class will be held at the station. Directions will be provided to registered attendees about a week before the workshop. For more information on the station, visit <http://www.wmrc.edu/facilities/cc>  
**Please note:** this is a high elevation facility, at 3,090 meters (10,150 feet) above sea level. If you have a preexisting medical condition, please consult with your doctor before traveling to a high elevation.

**Meals & Lodging:** Registration fees include dorm-style lodging (separated by gender) at the station for the nights of July 19 and 20, as well as all meals (dinner on the 19th, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on the 20th, and breakfast and lunch on the 21st), which will be provided by the station's cooks. A bottom sheet for the dorm mattress, bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths, bath mats, pillow cases and pillows will be provided; please bring a sleeping bag.

**Materials Required:** Please bring...

- Clipboard
- Notebook and pencils
- Sturdy boots and field clothes appropriate for conditions
- Plenty of water for time in the field and staying hydrated at high elevation
- Snacks for the field
- Sunscreen
- Sleeping bag for the dorm bed

Optional additional items include:

- Compass and/or clinometer
- Binoculars
- Digital camera
- GPS unit

**Materials Provided:** CNPS will provide data sheets, maps, and references for all field exercises, and a certificate of completion after successfully completing two vegetation rapid assessment field forms on the final day.

**Physical Requirements:** Participants should be physically able to hike over uneven terrain and remain in the field for up to 8.5 hours at a time at a high elevation. Crooked Creek Station is a high elevation facility, at 3,090 meters (10,150 feet) above sea level. If you have a preexisting medical condition, please consult with your doctor before traveling to a high elevation. This workshop will be held rain or shine. We will spend approximately 80-85% of the time in the field.

### About the Instructors

Julie Evens is the Vegetation Program Director for the California Native Plant Society, where she has directed CNPS vegetation projects and analyzed vegetation data for over ten years. She currently manages CNPS sampling protocols and databases, coordinates vegetation sampling and training sessions, collaborates on vegetation mapping projects with other agencies, and writes reports on vegetation classification across California. Previously, she worked as a crew leader for major vegetation projects in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and the central Mojave Desert. Julie received her BA degrees from UC Santa Cruz and MA degree in Biology from Humboldt State University.

Jennifer Buck-Diaz is a vegetation ecologist and botanist with the CNPS Vegetation Program. She brings to CNPS extensive work experience with different plant communities across the western United States. Prior to joining CNPS, Jennifer worked as an ecologist with The Nature Conservancy at the Cosumnes River Preserve. She holds a B.S. and M.S. in Plant Biology from the University of California, Davis.

**Registration Information:** Visit [www.cnps.org/workshops](http://www.cnps.org/workshops) to sign up for this class. Registration fees are discounted for CNPS members; please visit [www.cnps.org/join](http://www.cnps.org/join) if you would like to become a member. Class size is limited to 20 participants. The last day to sign up for this workshop is **July 10, 2016**.

**Cancellation Policy:** See full CNPS workshop cancellation policy at [www.cnps.org/workshops](http://www.cnps.org/workshops). The last day to cancel your registration and receive any refund for this workshop is **Tuesday, July 5, 2016**. Refunds may be subject to processing fees. Please send cancellation requests by e-mail to Becky Reilly, [breilly@cnps.org](mailto:breilly@cnps.org).

