

Sierra Nevada Alliance

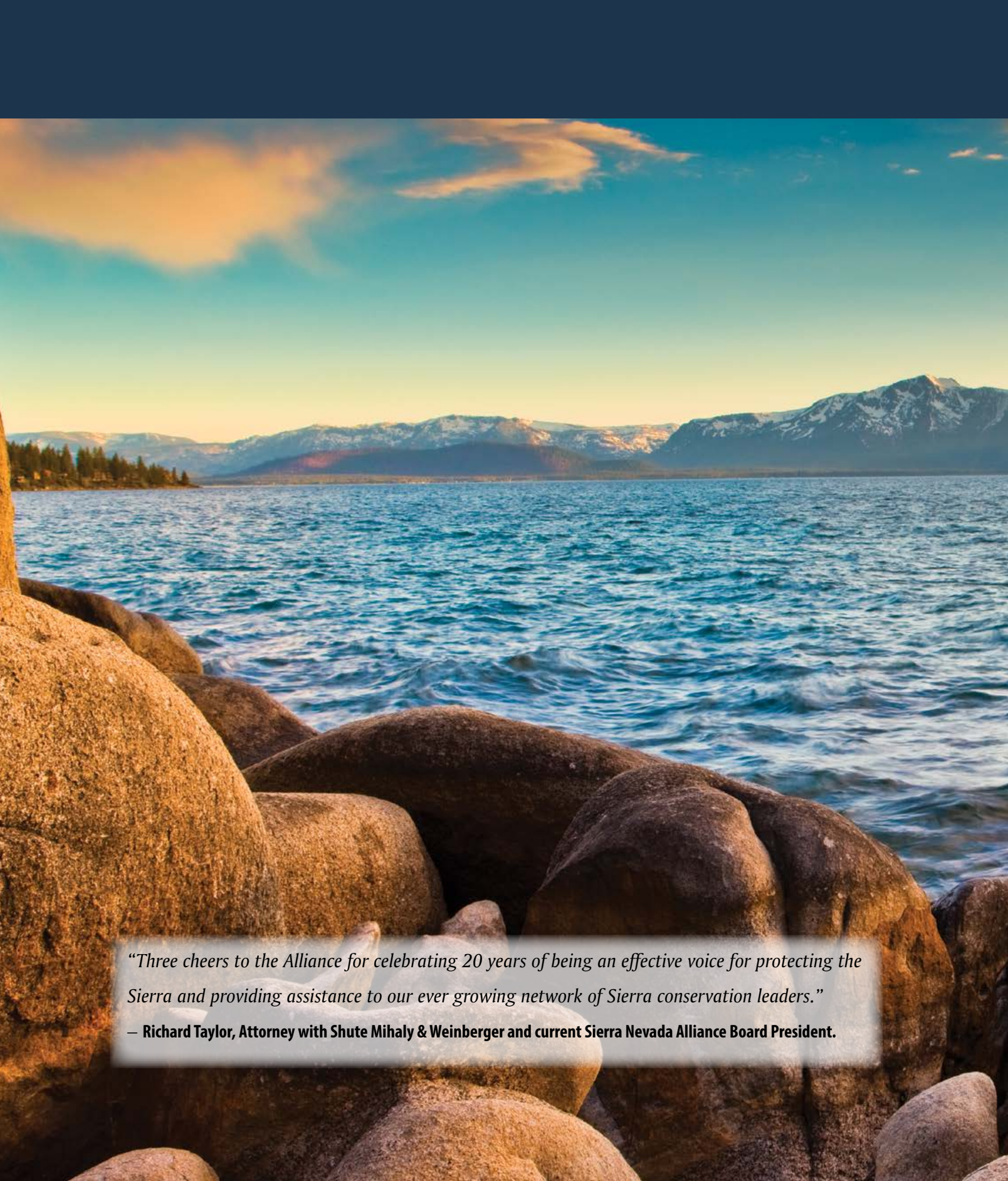
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

The Sierra Nevada Alliance's mission is to protect and restore the natural environment of the Sierra Nevada for future generations while ensuring healthy and sustainable communities.



“Three cheers to the Alliance for celebrating 20 years of being an effective voice for protecting the Sierra and providing assistance to our ever growing network of Sierra conservation leaders.”

– Richard Taylor, Attorney with Shute Mihaly & Weinberger and current Sierra Nevada Alliance Board President.

Annual Report July 2012 thru June 2013



During the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year, the Sierra Nevada Alliance celebrated our 20th Anniversary! Founded in 1993, the Alliance has been protecting and restoring Sierra lands, water, wildlife and rural communities. We do this by building the capacity of our network of more than ninety member groups and bringing people together to create region-wide change. After twenty years, we are proud to say we are still “Pika Strong”.

What is Pika Strong? During a past annual conference, John Muir Laws, author of the amazing *Laws Field Guide* to the Sierra Nevada, taught the Alliance network about the small but mighty Pika. The Pika is a high-elevation rabbit relative – about the size of your fist – that lives on grasses and wildflowers in the high Sierra all year round. The little Pika is known not only for its fortitude to survive Sierra winters on our highest peaks – but also for its ‘eep’ that can be heard from afar. We have embraced this wild critter as our mascot: it has a strong voice, tenacity while facing extreme challenges, and it calls the Sierra home.

This Annual Report will share accomplishments of this last year and showcase a timeline of highlights of our 20 year history!



Thanks to Jdelsophotography.com for donations of photos for this report

Sustainable Sierra Communities – Taking Action so our Communities and Natural Environment Thrive Together

For the last few years the Sierra Nevada Alliance has engaged and supported exemplary sustainable community actions. In FY 12-13 we worked with the Truckee River Watershed Council to implement the Truckee River Friendly Landscaping program. Our Sierra Nevada Alliance AmeriCorps members offered guidance to Truckee homeowners on how to design and maintain their yards to keep pollution out of the Truckee River, while creating beautiful and enjoyable landscapes. Over 115 best practices were implemented by homeowners, thanks to our SNAP members' efforts – and over 189 detailed workbooks were delivered, informing homeowners on Sierra friendly landscaping changes they could make. In addition, over 1,778 Sierra Yard and Garden Guides were distributed. Using the results of this pilot project, Alliance staff created a Sierra Yard and Garden "Cookbook" to help other communities create outreach programs, which inspire and support homeowners use landscaping to protect their local lakes and rivers, remove invasive species, live with wildlife, and protect their homes from wildfire.

The Alliance also worked on another model effort, called EmPower El Dorado, to help homeowners reduce energy consumption, save water, and create healthier indoor environments. We hosted a VISTA member to focus outreach on low-income households while developing this project. We reached out to over 200 households and provided 49 people consultations to save money and conserve energy. We wrapped up the project this year by writing up lessons learned to guide future integrated indoor conservation programs. We also produced a Sustainability Inventory showcasing over fifty groups working to create sustainable communities throughout the Sierra. We also walked the talk (or cleaned the walk) and helped lead efforts in South Lake Tahoe, mobilizing hundreds of volunteers to clean-up our natural environment in the Great Sierra River Clean-up and Annual Bike Path Clean-up.

Member Group Support Program – Building the Capacity of over 90 Groups to Save the Sierra!

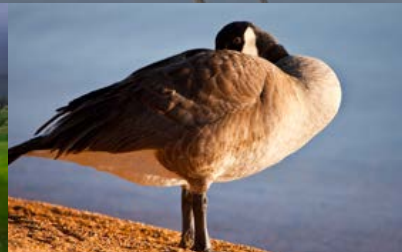
In FY 12-13, the Sierra Nevada Alliance had 92 Member Groups in our network. The Alliance helped groups raise funds, shape their campaigns, connect with experts, and troubleshoot. The Alliance also acted as fiscal sponsor for seven groups, such as Friends of Squaw Valley. Sponsorship provides these groups accounting and administrative support to operate as a charitable organization.

The highlight of the 2012-13 fiscal year was the Annual Conference in fall 2012, attended by over 172 people. Sierra hero Bill Center and author and conservation leader Will Murray keynoted the event, and with twelve conservation workshops and superb networking opportunities we once again got rave reviews for inspiration, useful information, and an excellent event.

The Alliance's Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) completed its 7th year and launched the 8th year of the program. The twenty-seven 2012 AmeriCorps Members accomplished a lot for the Sierra:

- ◆ 1247 acres of impaired habitats and degraded watersheds restored
- ◆ 13030 individuals educated on Sierra conservation issues
- ◆ 3544 volunteers recruited and supported that served 7,297 hours on conservation projects
- ◆ 1,611 donations secured totaling \$57,538 for our partnering conservation groups.

The 2013 AmeriCorps program got off to a great start and expanded with more federal support. We ran a half-term Member program



alongside our Full-term member program. This expansion resulted in 36 AmeriCorps members serving the Sierra with over 18 partner groups.

Regional Climate Change Program – Engaging Regional Planning to Protect our Natural Environment

Over the past year, the Regional Climate Change Program supported regional efforts to shape model natural resource plans to address climate change. Alliance staff helped Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth secure funding and in-kind support to challenge a county general plan that would allow the destruction of hundreds of acres of critical habitat, historic ranchlands and open space. Alliance staff secured the support of the Stanford Law Clinic to help our local partners in their legal challenge. We also worked closely with Plumas Tomorrow, Moonlight Valley Alliance and other local partners to show community support for a Plumas County general plan that

preserves the rural character of this northern Sierra county. This work included watchdogging Sierra Pacific Industries, which had proposed allowing the conversion of important timberlands into sprawling developments far from existing communities. Thanks to our efforts this proposal did not go through.

This year the Sierra Nevada Alliance also launched an effort with state and local partners to shape a Fresno County Sustainable Community Strategy. This new planning process mandated by SB 375 in California will have huge impacts on the Southern Sierra. We worked to help develop a diverse coalition and championed economic arguments for smart planning. The Alliance wants to ensure we reduce greenhouse gases, save prime valley agricultural lands, provide a better quality of life for all community members, and prevent the transfer of growth into sprawling developments across our biologically rich foothills.

Finally, we continued to play a leadership role in water planning throughout the Sierra. The Alliance advocated for statewide program support to benefit rural Sierra water supplies and the environment. We helped local partners in the Eastern Sierra write a model Inyo Mono integrated water plan addressing disadvantaged communities and with continued support got funding for projects that improved water quality for rural Eastern Sierra schools and towns. Staff also hosted another Sierra Water Work Group Summit in early summer of 2013. This event brought together state agencies, Sierra water providers, conservation leaders, tribes, water attorneys and others for a powerhouse of a program. The event continues to be so well received that we have established it as an annual occurrence! Finally, we worked with partners in Tahoe

on a Sustainability Action Plan and partnership. We are confident the final Sustainability Action Plan for Tahoe will be the first of its kind in the Sierra, creating a blueprint for effective ways to reduce greenhouse gases while also adapting to climate change for a multi-county, multi-city, two state region!

Sustaining the Organization to Sustain the Sierra!

The big news of the last FY is the Sierra Nevada Alliance moved down the street. We have a larger professional office for less money and a lovely conference room. Please visit!! And there were also lots of staff transitions over the year. We have a new awesome administrative team that came into place at the end of the fiscal year. Our Associate Director moved on to become the Eastern Sierra Land Trust Director, and our SNAP program also saw leadership transitions. On a final note, our finances ended in the black and our annual audit came out clean once again.

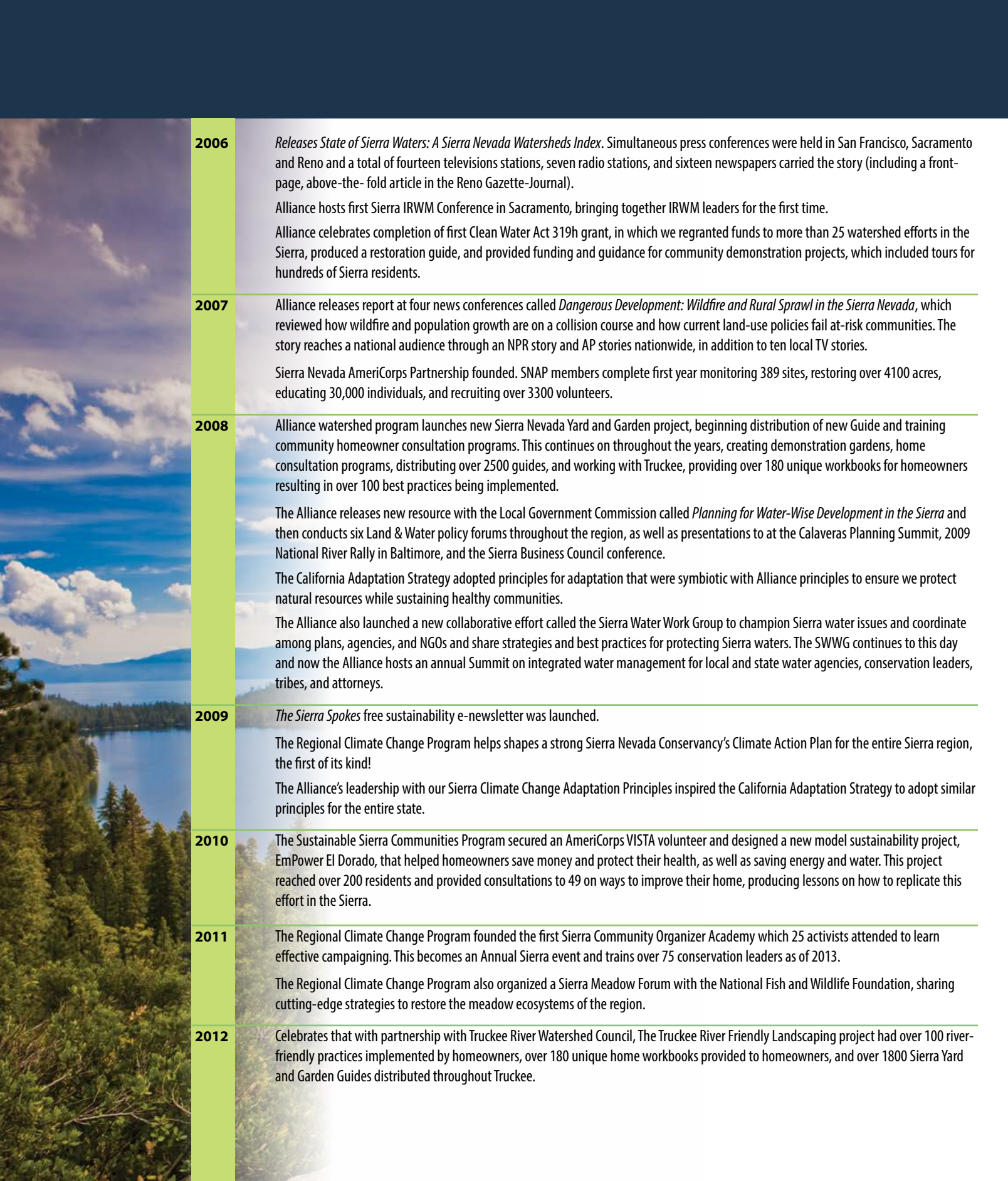


Celebrating 20 Years of Accomplishments

And as noted, the Sierra Nevada Alliance celebrated our 20th Anniversary! The following is a brief timeline of some key highlights of our 20 years:



1991	Tom Knudson's Pulitzer Prize winning series of articles entitled "Sierra in Peril" prompts statewide attention to the oft forgotten Sierra.
1992	First Board Meeting of the Sierra Nevada Alliance and the Alliance is incorporated in 1993 as a charitable organization.
1993	Laurel Ames is hired as the first Executive Director and 10-12 member groups join!
1994	First Annual Conference at Mammoth Lakes. Alliance conference grows over the years to over 200 participants and keynotes from renowned authors, state leaders, and national conservation directors.
1995	Engages public participation in the congressionally funded Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project.
1996	Sierra Nevada Alliance receives first private foundation grant.
1997	Sierra Futures Fund begins and over next 5 years \$30,000 mini-grants are given to 25 groups.
1999	Alliance Co-Sponsored Range Rides with California Cattleman's Association and California Rangeland Trust and supports the West Point Renewal Project with Foothill Conservancy. Alliance releases first major publication, <i>Watershed Council Toolkit</i> .
2000	The Watershed Principles created by the Alliance and Regional Council of Rural Counties are adopted by the State. Sierra Nevada Alliance begins convening the first meetings of land trusts in the region that spawns the Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council
2001	The first Watershed Director is hired. <i>The Sierra Land-Use Handbook</i> is released.
2002	Alliance completes 8 regional meetings in one year. Sierra Nevada Alliance joins Ski Area Citizens Coalition and releases First Ski Area Citizens Coalition Report Card in Sierra and California garnering statewide media attention. This goes on to become an Annual Event, garnering national attention and over 500 articles on ski area environmental performance over the years.
2003	Alliance produces and releases at news conferences throughout California <i>Troubled Waters of the Sierra</i> showcasing how all Sierra rivers are impaired and polluted and calling for increased state investment in watershed restoration and protection in the region. The Alliance established a new electronic alert system, issuing alerts to hundreds of individuals and groups on cutting edge conservation issues from our network of activists around the range. This continues through FY 12-13, providing over 200 alerts since it began.
2004	After three years of legislative effort, The Sierra Nevada Conservancy legislation passes thanks to Alliance, The Sierra Fund, Sierra Business Council, Sierra Cascade Land Trust and other allies! The Alliance receives award from The Sierra Fund for helping create the new Conservancy.
2005	Completes training of over 150 water quality monitors on 7 watersheds in the Sierra with the assistance of SYRCL. This goes on over the years, creating over 9 ongoing watershed monitoring programs throughout the Sierra. <i>First Sierra Climate Change Toolkit</i> released. Over the years three editions are released and over 2000 copies distributed. Publication recognized by state and United Nations as cutting edge resource on climate adaptation. Over 20 groups take the pledge to champion GHG reductions and climate change adaptation. Sierra Nevada Alliance releases report <i>Planning for the Future</i> , chronicling growth and development threatening our rural way of life and ecosystems. News conferences held throughout the State, with stories appearing in over 80 newspapers including: San Francisco Chronicle, LA Times, and Washington Post.
2006	Celebrates Mariposa General Plan adoption that helps save 37,000 acres of open space and includes model elements. The plan was helped to pass thanks to the teamwork of the Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government (MERG), the Alliance, Laurie Oberholtzer and Tom Infusino.



Friends of the Sierra Nevada Alliance

The Alliance would like to thank everyone who donated during 2012 – 2013

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American Rivers
Bear Creek Watershed Group
Bear Yuba Land Trust
Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance
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California Native Plant Society - Red Bud Chapter
California Oaks
California Save our Streams Council
California Trout Eastern Sierra Program
California Trout- Northern Sierra Program
California Urban Streams Alliance
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation
Community Action Project
Community for Respectful Firearms Use
Defenders of Wildlife
Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT)
Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch
Echo Lakes Environment Fund
Environmental Consumer
FoCuS-Foothill Collaborative for Sustainability
Foothill Conservancy
Foothills Water Network
Forest Issues Group
Foresthill Residents for Responsible Growth
Friends of Hope Valley
Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain
Friends of Mariposa Creek
Friends of Squaw Valley
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of the North Fork
Friends of the West Shore
Gold Country Fly Fishers
High Sierra Rural Alliance
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League to Save Lake Tahoe
Local Water Stays Local
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Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government (MERG)
Million Green Communities
Mono Lake Committee
Moonlight Valley Alliance
Mountain Area Preservation Foundation
Mountain Meadows Conservancy
North Fork American River Alliance
Pacific Rivers Council
Placer Land Trust
Planning and Conservation League
Restore Hetch Hetchy
Rural Quality Foundation
San Joaquin Valley Leadership Forum
Sequoia Forestkeeper
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Shasta Land Trust
Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Coalition
Sierra Club Kern Kaweah Chapter
Sierra Club Maidu Group
Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter
Sierra Club Placer Group
Sierra Club Range of Light Group
Sierra Club Sierra Nevada Group
Sierra Club Tahoe Area
Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter
Sierra Club Yahi Group
Sierra Cycling Foundation
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
Sierra Fund
Sierra Institute for Community & Environment
Sierra Streams Institute
Sierra Watch
Slow Food Lake Tahoe Chapter
Small World
Snowlands Network
South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)
Sustainable Tahoe
Tahoe Baikal Institute (TBI)
Tahoe Institute for Natural Science
Tahoe Tallac Association
Trout Unlimited
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 Lynn Sadler
 Richard Taylor



“Since 1993 the Alliance has provided technical, legal, and organizational support to hundreds of Sierra leaders and groups. They’ve been there to help efforts up and down the range implement sound and effective programs and policies.” – **Terry Manning, southern Sierra land use activist and Sierra Nevada Alliance Past Board President.**



Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2013

Assets

Cash	\$ 59,474
Accounts Receivable	\$ 154,869
Property and Equip.	\$ -
Restricted Cash	\$ 155,155
Prepaid Other	\$ 22,425
Total Assets	\$ 391,922

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$ 18,577
Vacation Payable	\$ 10,812
Total Liabilities	\$ 29,389

Temporarily Restricted	\$ 147,008
Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$ 215,525
Temporarily Restricted & Net Assets	\$ 362,533

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 391,922

Financial Statement

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

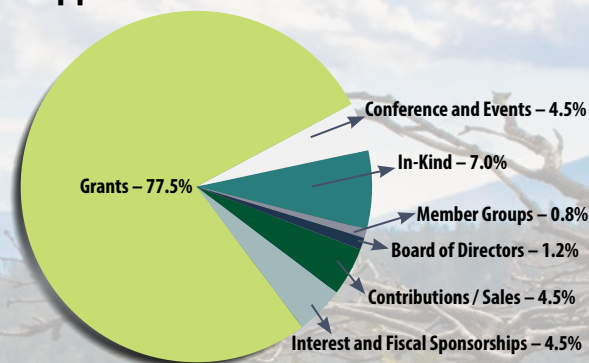
Support and Revenue

Board of Directors	\$ 18,068
Conference and Events	\$ 65,311
Contributions	\$ 65,687
Fiscal Sponsorships	\$ 65,810
Grants	\$ 1,144,853
In-Kind	\$ 104,153
Member Groups	\$ 12,075
Sales	\$ 879
Total Revenue	\$1,476,836

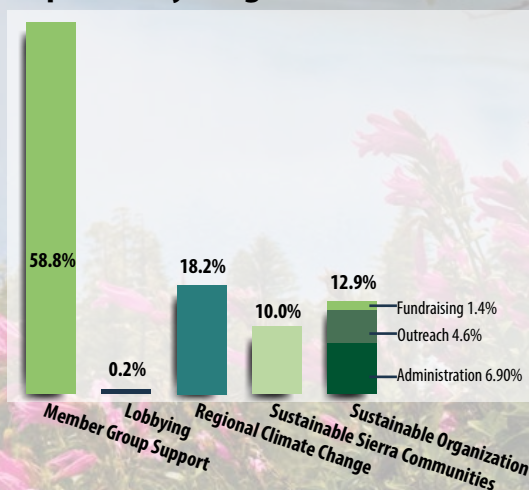
Expenses

Personnel and Benefits	\$ 539,017
Conference and Facilities	\$ 58,254
Consultants & Sub Contractors	\$ 117,417
Fiscal Sponsors	\$ 64,727
In-Kind	\$ 104,153
Operating	\$ 87,135
Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership	\$ 561,250
Travel/Training	\$ 21,499
Total Expenses	\$1,553,453

Support and Revenue



Expenses by Program



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

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