

SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2003-04

This report is available to the general public

The Sierra Nevada Alliance had a terrific year protecting Sierra lands, water, wildlife and communities.

Protecting & Restorating the Sierra

In October 2003, the Alliance produced and released the report, Troubled Waters of the Sierra: California and Nevada's Threatened Water Supply. This report documents that 23 out of 24 major watersheds in the Sierra are polluted and impaired. In addition, the Sierra is the third fastest growing region of the state and many climate change models show 40 percent of the Sierra snow-pack will be gone in 40 years. Alliance board members and staff released the report in four simultaneous news conferences gaining statewide media coverage. The report findings were even covered by National Associated Press resulting in coverage as far away as Florida.

Thanks to a grant from the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, the Alliance also convened meetings with over 40 Sierra leaders to evaluate how to protect and restore Sierra waters. As a result, the Alliance launched the Sierra Water and Climate Change Campaign to shape local resource planning to protect natural resources and influence state water plans. Due to the level of interest from Sierra conservation leaders in water policy issues, the Alliance also started and facilitates the Sierra Environmental Water Caucus. The new Caucus has over 60 participants from all over the range and will be a forum for collective action on regional and statewide water issues.

The Sierra Watershed Program took a giant leap this year. Megan Suarez started as the new Watersheds Program Coordinator in January. Thanks to a 319(h) grant from the federal EPA and State Water Resources Control Board, the Alliance teamed with the South Yuba River Citizens League and State Clean Water Team to develop and implement a regional citizen monitoring training program. The Alliance provided nine groups with equipment and six groups with in-depth training to establish local water monitoring programs. In addition, the Alliance re-granted money to six groups to conduct watershed restoration projects and demonstrate how to replicate the projects in their community. To see a list of watershed groups the Alliance provides information, training, and support to visit our website for our new Watershed Group Directory.

Our Sierra Lands program's main highlight was creating a Sierra Conservancy, a non-regulatory agency to support and fund Sierra conservation, historical and cultural projects throughout the region. While the Sierra supplies 65% of California's water and is home to half the plant and animal life of the state – the Sierra has not had significant state investment in Sierra conservation. The Alliance helped form a broad coalition and mobilized our network to educate legislators on this issue. As I write this annual report, legislation has passed the state legislature and is expected to gain the Governor's signature.

In addition, the Alliance participated in the ski area environmental scorecard and joined the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign steering committee to protect old growth and biodiversity in federal timber operations.

Strengthening Individual Efforts

The Sierra Nevada Alliance provided information, networking, and support to our network of over sixty member groups. We held our eleventh Annual Conference in August 2003 in Arnold California with over 125 conservation leaders participating. We continued to issue our electronic Alliance Sierra Weekly with news, events and notices. We also distributed over fifty conservation alerts to our extended network.

Strategically Planning for the Future

The Alliance this year increased individual and grant support, as well as expanded our staff. We also created a new, ambitious organizational Strategic Plan, thanks to a grant from the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation. The new plan commits the Alliance to being an authority on and increasing visibility of Sierra Nevada conservation issues; making significant progress on campaigns to protect Sierra waters, land, and air; increasing state and federal investment in Sierra conservation; and growing the Alliance to a network of over 100 conservation groups.

So looking back on 2003-2004, we are proud that we helped establish a new Sierra Conservancy, raised public awareness of the threats and solutions to protecting Sierra Waters, launched a new effort to train over 100 Sierra volunteer water quality monitors, supported twelve Sierra communities in watershed protection with grants and training, and formed a new powerful Caucus for Sierra water protection. We believe this successful year bodes well for fulfilling our new strategic plan and achieving our mission of protecting and restoring Sierra lands, water, wildlife and communities.

Sincerely,

Joan Clayburgh Executive Director

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FRIENDS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Nevada Alliance would like to thank everyone who has donated during the past fiscal year.

CA State Water Resources Control Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) provided the Alliance a 319h grant

A special thanks to:

for our

program.

Vaughn Johnson, our tax preparer

and

Mark Russell of Twin Wolf Technology Group, our

Web

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The Sierra

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Member Groups Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club Blue Mountain Community

Renewal Council California Oaks Foundation California Save Our Streams Council Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation Eastern Sierra Advocates Network Fastern Sierra Land Trust Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch Echo Lakes Environment Fund Environmental Planning and Information Council

Friends of Hope Valley Friends of Placer County Communities Friends of Sierra Rock Art Friends of the Tule River High Sierra Hikers Association Jumping Frog Research Institute Lake Taboe Environmental

Education Coalition League to Save Lake Tahoe Maidu Group of the Sierra Club Mariposans for Environmentally Responsible Growth Mono Lake Committee Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club

Mountain Alliance

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Mountain Meadows Conservancy Northern California Regional Land Trust Pacific Rivers Council Planning & Conservation League Protect American River Canyons Range of Light Group of the Sierra Club Restore Hetch Hetchy Rural Quality Coalition Sequoia Forestkeeper Sequoia Riverlands Trust Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Coalition Sierra Foothills Audubon Society Sierra Nevada Group of the Sierra Club Snowlands Network The Sierra Fund Truckee Donner Land Trust

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2003 Conference Sponsors Brown and Caldwell

Truckee River Watershed Council

Chaco Inc. Environment Now Friends of Butte Creek Michael Hogan/Integrated Environmental Restoration Vicky Hoover

MACTEC Marlee Powell

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Net Worth 2

BALANCE SHEET JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004

	ASSEIS I	
	Cash	\$71,801
	Equipment (less depreciation)	\$ 2,842
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$74,643
	LIADIIITIEC	
	LIABILITIES	
	Accrued Employment Taxes/	
-	Vacation	\$10,144
-	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$10,144
-		
-	EQUITY AND NET WORTH	

\$64,499

\$74,643

Notes to Balance Sheet

- 1 The assets the Alliance carries on its balance sheet are cash, receivables, and equipment (less depreciation).
- 2 The positive net worth arises from funds pledged to specific programs which have been funded by major grants, received in advance of the spending of the monies. Use of the majority of the monies in the money market fund is restricted to funding programs for which the grants were received.

Assets decreased by \$50,840, and Liabilities increased by \$3,474 from fiscal year 02-03

FINANCIAL STATEMENT June 30, 2004

SUPPORT & REVENUE

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET WORTH

Grants	\$273,035
Contributed Services	\$ 6,394
Board of Directors	\$ 13,000
Donations	\$ 41,005
Conference	\$ 13,492
Interest	\$ 715
Member Groups	\$ 9,040
TOTAL	\$356,681



Admin. Personnel	\$ 30,691
Fundraising	\$ 766
Office Expenses	\$ 16,778
Org. Consultants	\$ 4,570
Program Expenses	\$ 135,960
Program Consultants	\$ 30,552
Program Regranting	\$ 184,234
Conference	\$ 7,444

TOTAL \$410,994*

*Expenses in excess of revenue paid for from grants received in prior year and committed to this fiscal year.



