



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2004-05

This report is available to the general public

The Sierra Nevada Alliance made strong progress on protecting Sierra lands, water, wildlife and communities from July 2004 through June 2005. Below are just some of the highlights from over the course of the fiscal year.

Leader in Establishing New Agency to Steward Region

The Alliance received an award in 2005 from The Sierra Fund for our leadership in establishing the Sierra Conservancy. While our region provides 65% of California's developed water, is home to half the plant and wildlife of the state, and covers over a



Mt. Whitney by Tim Palmer

quarter of the land mass, less than 2% of California's conservation funding outside of the Tahoe Basin went to the Sierra. The establishment of a new state agency dedicated to Sierra conservation is key to increasing state investment. The Alliance mobilized our member groups, sponsored lobby days, consulted on policy, and strongly advocated for the legislative establishment of this new non-regulatory agency. Once established, the Alliance kept our member groups abreast of the process for appointing the new board and getting the new agency rolling. We partnered with The Sierra Fund, Mono Lake Committee,

Sierra Business Council, and Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council on a frequent basis to see this effort succeed.

Launched "Planning for the Future" Campaign to Guide Smart Growth

In 2005, we kicked off a new Planning for the Future Campaign to shape smart land use plans in Sierra counties. Population in the Sierra is projected in many areas to quintuple over the next ten years and a third of the region is at risk for development. The Alliance researched indicators of growth and impacts to the environment and released a report entitled "Planning for the Future: A Sierra Nevada Land Use Index." Our media release strategy for the report gained over a hundred stories around the nation chronicling threats to wildlife, rural quality, and natural resources – as well as highlighting smart growth principles for the Sierra. In 2005 staff identified key partner groups to help lead



Downtown Plumas

community efforts to update Sierra Nevada counties' general plans. We also provided expert advice on smart growth policies as well as strategic campaign assistance to involve entire communities in shaping

sustainable growth. And the Alliance organized the first Sierra Smart Growth Summit in May with state, local, and regional experts sharing the best tactics and policies for organizing in the rural region.

Trained 150+ Water Monitors and Started New Watershed Efforts

The Sierra Watersheds Program has made amazing strides in establishing stewardship groups and building their capacity on Sierra watersheds to assess, protect and restore Sierra lakes, rivers and



Watershed leaders on tour of restoration projects

streams. In 2004 we kicked off a river water quality monitoring training program and over the fiscal year trained over 150 water quality monitors on 7 watersheds in the Sierra. Participants went through a series of workshops and field trainings and pledged to monitor sites monthly or quarterly. The Alliance provided equipment and teamed with the experienced South Yuba River Citizens League to provide training. We also helped fund and provide guidance to eleven committees to hold creek days to educate their communities and inspire the creation of new watershed stewardship groups where none existed.

In May we hosted a three-day touring workshop for over thirty-five watershed leaders on successful restoration planning and implementation. And in the fall of 2004 we completed our management of the Alpine Watershed Upper Carson Stream Corridor assessment and saw our fundraising assistance pay off for the Alpine Watershed Group as they hired their first watershed coordinator.

Created New Tools to Adapt to Climate Changes in the Sierra

The Alliance launched a cutting edge effort to alert the public and decision makers to the impacts of climate change in the Sierra and ensure smart resource protection elements adapting to climate changes are incorporated into Sierra resource management plans, such as county general plans and hydropower agreements. In previous years the Alliance found that understanding local impacts and knowing concrete actions to undertake were a mystery and overwhelming for conservationists and local leaders. The Alliance dug up the latest science in climate change information for the Sierra and region, researched the best means to communicate the issue and compiled a Climate Change Toolkit to provide ways for local leaders to craft resource management plans that adapt to inevitable climate change, while inspiring actions to prevent catastrophic changes.

Planned for Integrating Water Management and Identified Research Needs to Protect Sierra Waters

The Alliance took a leadership role gathering diverse stakeholders to explore how to integrate regional management of water in the Sierra. The Alliance partnered with water agencies, conservationists, and recreationists to propose an integrated regional water management planning



Creek Day watershed monitoring on the Carson River

process. This integrating effort could increase efficiency, coordination and cooperation among watersheds to benefit natural resources and rural communities. The pilot planning effort in the

Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba watersheds could become a model for other subregions of the Sierra.

The Alliance also convened meetings of the Sierra Environmental Water Caucus and took the lead in organizing a Sierra Research Assessment



Fallen Leaf Lake

Workshop. The tenured Deans of UC Davis, UC Merced, and Desert Research Institute of University Nevada, Reno provided perspectives into the direction of university research on natural resources of the Sierra. The Alliance led Caucus also produced a Sierra Research Needs Paper identifying key areas for future water research in the region to guide good resource management.

Grew Network of Groups and Protected the Sierra's Special Places

In 2004 to 2005, the Alliance grew to having sixty-nine conservation groups in our network. Our popular Sierra Nevada Alliance Weekly kept conservation leaders throughout the region abreast of the latest Sierra news, events and opportunities each week. And the 2004 Annual Conference in South Lake Tahoe was a strong success with over 160 conservation leaders attending for a weekend highlighted by Assemblymember John Laird sharing his insider efforts to create the new Conservancy and an eye opening presentation of a new climate change calculator for Sierra watersheds. The event got strong reviews and over 12 workshops helped inform and inspire participants. We also completed and shared a capacity assessment of our groups to shape future Alliance assistance.

New Staff, New Look, & New Plans

The Alliance in 2004 and 2005 added on a new staff position –land use coordinator and raised funds to add two more additional staff in the next year. The organization's image also got a face lift with a new logo designed pro bono by Crocker Flanagan, a redesigned website, and new look for factsheets, the newsletter, and report covers. The Alliance board and consultants also completed a new marketing and communication plan and a development plan to accomplish our strategic plan goals. And finally, we produced four wall maps highlighting where our members are based, where the watersheds and stewardship groups of the Sierra are located, potential development throughout the region, and general Sierra map highlighting our program areas.

So in summary, the Alliance strengthened local efforts in every subregion of the Sierra to protect all the Sierra's special places. We set in motion cutting edge new campaigns to tackle the most pressing issues of population growth and climate change. And we continued to bring strong coalitions and multiple community interests together to form lasting stewardship groups and programs for the region.

For more information contact the Alliance at
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Sincerely,

Joan Clayburgh,
 Executive Director

Friends of the Sierra Nevada Alliance

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

Resources Legacy Fund Foundation

Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund

CA State Water Resources Control Board

A special thanks for the in-kind services of:

Mark Kleinman and Crocker Flanagan for our new logo design

and

Vaughn Johnson, our tax preparer

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BALANCE SHEET
JULY 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2005

ASSETS

Cash	\$206,072
Equipment (less depreciation)	\$ 2,211
TOTAL ASSETS	\$208,283

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accrued Employment Taxes/Vacation	\$ 13,322
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 13,322

COMMITMENT AND CONTINGENCY¹

Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$ 88,672
Net Assets - Temporarily Restricted	\$106,289
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$194,961

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$208,283

Notes to the Balance Sheet

¹ The restricted net assets arise from funds pledged to specific programs which have been funded by major grants, received in advance of the spending of the monies.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT June 30, 2005

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Grants	\$522,214
Contributed Services	\$ 18,402
Board of Directors	\$ 6,205
Donations	\$ 45,863
Conference	\$ 26,082
Member Groups	\$ 5,205
Interest	\$ 4,058

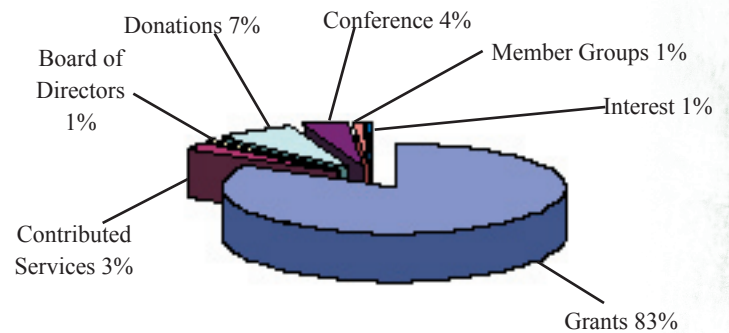
TOTAL REVENUE \$628,028

EXPENSES

Admin. Personnel	\$ 47,328
Fundraising	\$ 4,149
Office Expenses	\$ 28,934
Program Consultants	\$103,943
Program Expenses	\$170,768
Program Regranting	\$111,390
Conference	\$ 12,652

TOTAL EXPENSES \$479,164

SUPPORT & REVENUE



EXPENSES

