

SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2005-6

July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

The Sierra Nevada Alliance mission is to protect and restore the natural environment of the Sierra Nevada for future generations while ensuring healthy and sustainable communities. The organization works to strengthen individual and group efforts and to be a regional voice for the protection of the entire region.

2005/06 Annual Report

This year the Sierra Nevada Alliance staff and office space doubled in size. The Alliance added a Development Director and Community Group Coordinator and expanded into the adjacent suite. But capacity only matters if it results in achievements. This annual report highlights our best achievements of the year.

“We grew, we achieved, we took flight this year,” said Joan Clayburgh, Executive Director. “It was so rewarding hearing from groups that our staff really helped their efforts with local issues and that our united efforts to help shape a new regional agency will make a real difference throughout the Sierra Nevada.”

The Community Group Support Program

The last great places of the Sierra are best protected by community leadership, such as the Mono Lake Committee and South Yuba River Citizens League. The Community Group Support Program works to strengthen individual and group efforts to protect and restore the Sierra Nevada. This Program offers organizational and technical support, builds networks so groups learn from each other, and garners statewide attention to local conservation needs.

This year the Community Group Support Program is the strongest it's ever been with the expansion of our Sierra Nevada Alliance network from 69 to 81 member groups, the hosting of our successful Annual Conference in July 2005, the hiring of our first community group coordinator and the engagement of our member groups to build relations with the new Sierra Nevada Conservancy. In addition, the Sierra Nevada Alliance Weekly email continues to receive strong reviews as the leading source of news, events and opportunities related to conservation issues throughout the region. We also co-sponsored, with The Sierra Fund, two Sierra legislative education days connecting vibrant Sierra conservation leaders with California state legislators.

One of our Community Group Support Program priorities was establishing the new Sierra Nevada Conservancy. In 2005/2006 we hosted meetings and tours with our conservation network and produced detailed materials to orient the new agency staff and board members to the unique qualities and challenges of the Sierra's natural environment. We mobilized our network to attend twelve



agency-sponsored forums and submitted multiple rounds of input on the first Strategic Plan. Thanks to our uniting of conservation voices throughout the region, we ensured the new agency prioritized wildlife and ecosystem protection and partnerships with non-profit organizations.

“The Alliance played a critical role in building a strong bridge between our local conservation experts and the new Conservancy staff and board,” said Julie Bear, Executive Director of the Eastern Sierra Land Trust. “Without their leadership keeping us abreast of opportunities and mobilizing us to reach out, this agency would have been primarily connected and oriented by other interests. They ensured conservation non-profits were not only involved in the process, but greatly valued for their expertise and on-the-ground know how from the very beginning.”

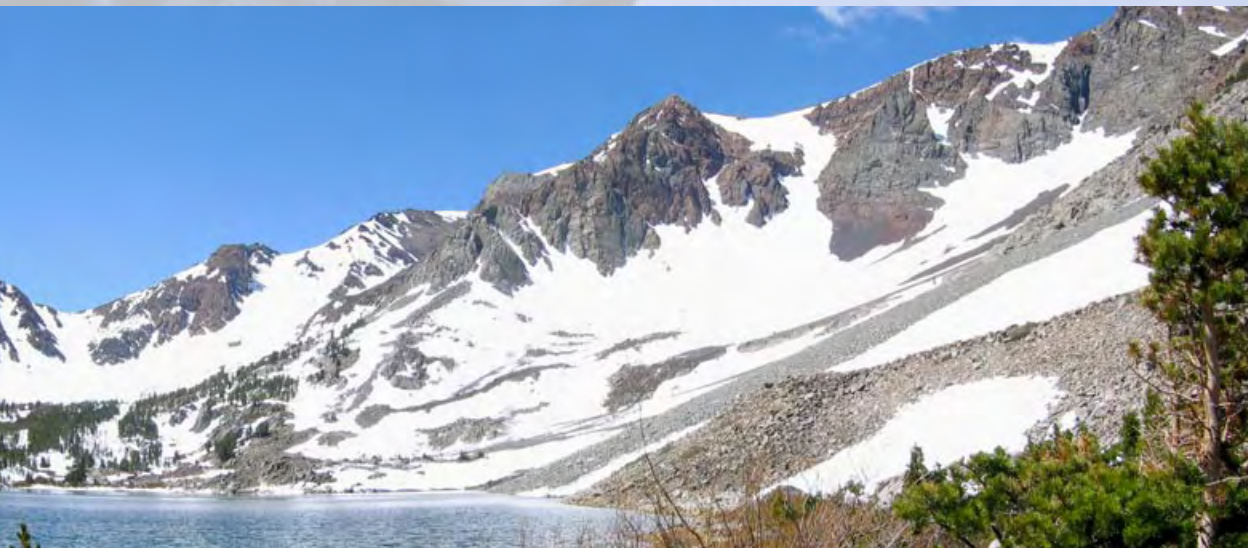
The Resource Protection and Restoration Program

For over a hundred years the Sierra has seen mining, logging, grazing, and other human development change the region. Explosive growth, climate change, and poor resource management threaten the region further. The Resource Protection and Restoration Program’s goals are to (1) educate the public and decision makers about regional conservation issues and solutions, and (2) make on the ground progress in protecting and restoring Sierra lands, water, wildlife and communities. This year we made strong progress in our three main campaigns.

The **Sierra Water and Climate Change Campaign** focuses on the staggering natural resource impacts in the Sierra that occur even under the best greenhouse gas emission reduction scenarios. Our campaign goals are for local Sierra resource plans and state conservation efforts to account for climate change and prioritize the protection of Sierra natural resources.

Sierra Climate Change Adaptation Education & Resource Planning: This year we produced the first ever Sierra Climate Change Toolkit. The toolkit has the latest science, tools for integrating climate change into resource planning and leads to other resources. This was distributed to over 500 Sierra community resource planners and conservation leaders and was so popular we had to reprint after two months. We presented its findings to over 300 conservation leaders on climate change impacts and how to adapt to protect natural resources. We also co-sponsored with the California Hydro-power Reform Coalition a workshop for power operators and conservation leaders on how climate change is impacting hydropower operation.

“The Sierra Nevada Alliance toolkit is cutting edge,” said Jason Rainey, Executive Director of SYRCL. “So many groups are doing great work on emissions reduction, but no one is addressing how to protect our lakes and rivers, wildlife, and communities in the face of climate changes already underway. The Alliance is the regional leader in getting resource planners to act today to protect natural resources before it is too late.”



Water Conservation: A front line strategy to ensure a stable water supply when global warming shrinks the Sierra snowpack is water conservation. To play a leadership role and stay abreast of cutting edge conservation strategies the Sierra Nevada Alliance was appointed and has served on the California Urban Water Conservation Council for the year.

Water Management Integration: Integrated planning with strong conservation participation is key to the future of securing water for wildlife and habitat in addition to urban and agriculture needs. To this end, the Sierra Nevada Alliance played a leadership role in forming and organizing a diverse committee of agencies, conservation groups, land use planners, and recreation interests to create an integrated regional water management plan for the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba watersheds. We are also tracking other integrated plans and implementation around the Sierra to export lessons learned to all the watersheds of the region.

Our **Sierra Watershed Project** goal is to ensure that healthy sustainable stewardship groups are established on all Sierra watersheds and effectively assessing, protecting and restoring the watershed.

The project researched, produced and released a new report: *State of Sierra Waters: A Sierra Nevada Watersheds Index*. The new report showed that over 75% of Sierra watersheds were impacted for swimming, fishing and drinking water. Simultaneous press conferences were held in San Francisco, Sacramento and Reno and a total of fourteen television stations, seven radio stations, and sixteen newspapers carried the story (including a front-page, above-the-fold article in the Reno Gazette-Journal).

Our Watershed Program is wrapping up our Clean Water Act 319h grant, in which we regrant funds to more than 25 watershed efforts in the Sierra, completed training for more than 150 water monitors, and created many valuable training tools on assessments, restoration and protection of watersheds. The Sierra Nevada Alliance produced a restoration guide and provided funding and guidance for “community demonstration restoration projects.” We funded projects on the Upper Sacramento, Yuba/Bear, Truckee and American watersheds. Upon completion our partners toured over a hundred residents through their restoration work. The project also produced and distributed to over two hundred watershed leaders a “Total Maximum Daily Load” Guide, a Restoration Guide and a monthly e-newsletter called Sierra Watershed Currents.

“We wouldn’t be here without the Alliance,” said Laura Lueders, Coordinator for the Alpine Watershed Group. “They helped us raise funds, trained our water monitors and supported our creek days. They have been critical to keeping our watershed stewardship efforts alive.”

Our **Planning for the Future Campaign** focuses on skyrocketing growth and development in the Sierra Nevada region. Our Campaign works to protect Sierra lands, water, wildlife and rural quality of life by shaping smart land use plans in all Sierra Nevada counties.



In 2005/2006 the Alliance helped form campaign committees and effective strategies in the priority counties of Mariposa, Tulare, Butte, and Calaveras. We used expert land use planning consultants and advisors to guide plans and strategies and trained grassroots leaders in winning tactics to build broad diverse support to protect wildlands, rural communities and working landscapes.

In Mariposa County, a gateway to Yosemite, the County released its EIR on proposed plans. The Sierra Nevada Alliance worked closely with Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government (MERG) to analyze the report, to involve their community in the planning, and to build a broad coalition with ranchers and farmers to keep Mariposa rural. We helped reach thousands of residents with mailings, maps and other outreach on proposed plans and conservation-oriented alternatives.

“Mariposa County is faced with sprawl, oak woodland destruction, and loss of rural character in the current land rush that is occurring here,” said Bart Brown, Chair of MERG. “The support of the Sierra Nevada Alliance has provided MERG with the expertise and campaign savvy to try to prevent these disasters as our county updates its General Plan. We are most grateful to the Alliance for giving us the tools and hope for success in this long battle.”

In Tulare County, the Planning Commission recommended that the county Board of Supervisors adopt a city-centered growth alternative. However, a large private landowner proposed a 35,000 unit subdivision for Yokohl Ranch, a 40,000-acre oak woodland east of Visalia in the Sierra. This new development would not be compatible with city-centered growth and is located far from existing infrastructure. The Alliance helped form a new coalition group of ranchers, conservationists, low-income residents and others to encourage the county stick to city-centered growth. With our help the new Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth developed its first campaign plan, generated community letters calling for smart growth, and raised money to hire their first part-time coordinator for their efforts.

The Alliance also provided consulting and public education support to grassroots smart growth efforts in Calaveras, Butte, Inyo, Sierra, Placer and Tuolumne counties.

The Sierra Nevada Alliance also kept Sierra land use conservation advocates up to date on the latest news and resources through our monthly Land Use Currents, a Sierra Land Use Summit and a new resource called Saving the Sierra: A Land Use Toolkit for activists. The toolkit explains planning laws and provides guidance to organize effective smart planning campaigns.

The Sierra Nevada Alliance has set out to bring critical attention to the challenges and solutions for protecting our natural environment, to make measurable improvements in watershed health, land use planning, and water policy, and to grow our network of grassroots groups and provide significant support that strengthens all their individual efforts. 2005/2006 saw significant progress to these strategic goals. Together as individuals and groups we are making a difference and keeping light in the range.



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

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Advocates for Smart Growth
Sequoia Forestkeeper

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Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Coalition
Sierra Club Angeles 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 Foothills Audubon Society
Sierra Watch
Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships
Snowlands Network
South Yuba River Citizens League
Squaw Valley Gateway Community
The Sierra Fund
Tahoe Chapter California Native Plant Society (CNPS)
Truckee Donner Land Trust
Truckee River Watershed Council
Tuolumne County Citizens for Responsible Growth
Tuolumne County Land Trust
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SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE



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2005/2006 Financial Statement

BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 2006

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 143,292
Equipment (less depreciation)	\$ 1,041
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 144,333

Liabilities And Net Assets

Accounts Payable/Accrued Expenses	\$ 17,571
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 17,571

Commitment And Contingency¹

Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$ 84,792
Net Assets - Temporarily Restricted	\$ 41,970
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 126,762

Total Liabilities And Net Assets \$ 144,333

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Grants	\$ 412,963
Board of Directors	\$ 16,681
Donations	\$ 52,900
Conference	\$ 34,176
Member Groups	\$ 11,470
Interest	\$ 8,457
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 536,647

EXPENSES

Admin. Personnel	\$ 52,554
Fundraising	\$ 5,223
Office Expenses	\$ 30,469
Program Consultants	\$ 92,152
Program Expenses	\$ 58,155
Program Personnel	\$ 209,191
Program Regranting	\$ 130,223
Conference	\$ 26,879
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 604,846

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.

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Grants 77%

Donations 10%

Conference 6%

Board of Directors 3%

Member Groups 2%

Interest 2%

EXPENSES

Program Personnel 34%

Program Regranting 22%

Program Consultants 15%

Program Expenses 10%

Admin. Personnel 9%

Office Expenses 5%

Conference 4%

Fundraising 1%



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