



Annual Report

**Fiscal Year
2006 - 2007**

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

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.



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

*F*or generations, the Sierra Nevada has provided inspiration, beauty and well-being to California, Nevada, the nation and the world. Our stunning vistas, diverse wildlife, amazing recreation opportunities, and rural communities have been admired and efforts to protect them have existed for years. However, as the population of the Sierra grows and global warming changes the hydrology, vegetation and ecosystems of the region, how we sustain these values becomes a more important question than ever before.



Sustaining the Sierra is paramount for ourselves and future generations.

Since 1993, the Sierra Nevada Alliance has been protecting and restoring Sierra lands, water, wildlife and rural communities. As we move into the next decade, promoting ecological, economic, and community sustainability is our top priority.

The Alliance's Sustainable Sierra Programs

The Alliance is committed to leaving our communities better than we found them and ensuring the beauty of this "Range of Light" will continue to inspire our children and our grandchildren. To accomplish this, the Alliance has three major programs.

- **The Sustainable Community Group Program's** primary strategy is to build the capacity of local community groups working to protect and restore all the Sierra's special places.
- **The Sustainable Resource Protection Program's** primary strategy is to lead the way toward addressing regional issues and uniting local efforts to achieve regional sustainability goals.
- **The Sustainable Organization Program's** primary strategy is to ensure that the Alliance has the organizational capacity to achieve the goals of the other two programs.



The Sustainable Community Group Program

The Sierra Nevada Alliance's network of conservation groups have been the forefront of promoting a conservation and sustainability ethic in local Sierra communities for many years. These groups are involved in a variety of resource management activities: hydropower relicensing, watershed restoration, county general plan updates, forest harvest planning, and many more. **This fiscal year the Alliance grew our network to include 90 member groups.**

To increase the capacity of our member groups, the Alliance created a new program to recruit, train and place twenty-seven AmeriCorps members with nineteen non-profit organizations and agencies working to protect and restore the Sierra environment. This new program is called the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership, and its mission is to build the capacity of community-based organizations to play a leading role in the protection, restoration and stewardship of public lands, local waterways and working landscapes of the Sierra Nevada region. Members serve with community non-profit groups and natural resource agencies to conduct habitat restoration, ecological monitoring, watershed education and volunteer recruitment.

From January to July of 2007, AmeriCorps members restored 726 acres of high-priority lands and rivers, educated over 17,217 people on critical ways to protect and restore the Sierra and monitored ecological health at over 240 sites. Almost as important, we held two trainings to give our AmeriCorps members new skills and information to help them launch careers dedicated to the environment. The Sierra Nevada Alliance is very proud to be the lead organization hosting this exciting new program to serve the Sierra.



Another accomplishment of our Sustainable Community Group Program was our 2006 Sierra Nevada Alliance Annual Conference held in North Lake Tahoe. The conference attracted over 180 participants and inspired conservation leaders with stories from John Muir (aka actor Lee Stetson) and publisher Malcolm Margolin. The Alliance was also proud to host a day for attorneys and conservation leaders focused on



environmental laws. This full day session was co-organized and sponsored by the Environmental Law Section of the California State Bar.

A key focus of the Sierra Nevada Alliance's community group support program has been establishing a new Sierra Nevada Conservancy. In past years the Alliance played a critical role in the coalition that created this new agency dedicated to the Sierra region. From July of 2006 to June of 2007, the Alliance played a critical role once again, mobilizing our network of conservation leaders to orient the new Board of Directors for the Conservancy and shape the new agency's Strategic Plan and Program Guidelines. The Alliance achieved all our major goals for the Conservancy: We helped our network of conservation leaders become valued partners to the Conservancy's board and staff; and we ensured that restoration and protection of the Sierra's natural environment is a top priority for the new agency!

Finally, the Alliance and the The Sierra Fund co-hosted a 2007 Day at the Capitol. We arranged for teams of Sierra conservation leaders to meet with over twenty key legislative offices. Our goal was simple: to ensure that state leadership understands the importance of investing in our Sierra region which provides ample clean water, wildlife habitat, and unmatched recreation. We are always amazed at how many legislators and their staff are not familiar with the true size, incredible attributes, and lack of past state support for conservation in the region.

Sustainable Resource Protection Program

During the last fiscal year we achieved conservation outcomes in our Sustainable Resource Protection Program, which has three major campaigns.

The Sustainable Sierra Land Use Campaign works to advance sustainable land use planning



in the Sierra Nevada. The Campaign partners with local land use groups across the Sierra to build and support a regional smart growth movement to protect working landscapes, preserve lands important for wildlife, watersheds, and ecosystem integrity, and maintain historic town-centered patterns of Sierra communities.

This year the Alliance helped Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government achieve a General Plan in Mariposa County that protects threatened open space and creates model policies for other Sierra counties to duplicate. Mariposa County is the home of Yosemite Valley and its rolling, oak-studded ranchlands are a cornerstone of the local economy. Mariposa's new General Plan protects 425,000 acres of these working landscapes and open space, preserves lands important for wildlife, watersheds and ecosystem integrity, and maintains historic town-centered patterns of community development. The Alliance and MERG won this victory by building a diverse coalition with local farmers and ranchers, educating and mobilizing community members, and bringing in experts to help shape a better plan.

The Alliance has also been working in Tulare County, gateway to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park, to help shape a smarter future.

The Alliance helped convene a new group to watchdog development plans in the county - Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth. We helped them build a strong base of dedicated volunteers and raise funds to hire their first Executive Director. We also helped put together a series of educational outreach presentations to inform and inspire their community to participate in shaping the future of the area.

In addition to our targeted work in priority areas like Mariposa and Tulare County, the Alliance provides assistance to all groups in the region focused on growth and development. This fiscal year we printed and distributed a wonderful new



grassroots toolkit, called *Saving Sierra Places: An Activist's Toolkit for Winning Land Use Campaigns*. The toolkit has planning information, campaign “how-to’s”, and referrals to other experts and resources. The Campaign also hosted a Sierra Land Use Summit, attended by 40 activists from around the region, who learned the latest on smart planning and ways to improve their local efforts.



As part of this effort to shape smart land use, the Alliance has also helped watchdog ski resort development and expansion – a major driver of growth in the Sierra. **This year the Alliance helped the Tahoe Area Sierra Club and League to Save Lake Tahoe stop an effort by Heavenly Ski Resort to clear-cut hundreds of magnificent old growth Red fir trees in a fragile watershed to make way for a new ski lift.** Through good information, public mobilization and expert testimony, a better alternative was adopted.

And we also released our annual Ski Area Environmental Scorecard, which we publish every year as part of the Ski Area Citizens Coalition. This year's scorecard focused on what ski areas are doing to combat climate

change, and it gained coverage in dozens of media outlets, including the Los Angeles Times, CNN, USA Today, and the Wall Street Journal.

The Sierra Water & Climate Change Campaign alerts the public and decision makers to the impacts of climate change in the Sierra and ensures that smart local resource management plans are adopted that protect the natural environment while adapting to the changing climate. This campaign conducts public education, tracks changes, and champions climate-smart, environmentally-friendly water policy at the state level. This includes integrating and collaborating on planning, and prioritizing conservation and efficiency of all natural resources.



This year the Alliance made over twenty-five presentations on the impacts of climate change and how to adapt to protect our natural environment while reducing emissions. **Over twenty conservation groups pledged to join us in creating climate-smart and environmentally friendly conservation plans.** We also gathered over five hundred pledges from Sierrans pledging to reduce their personal emissions to prevent catastrophic climate changes.

As part of our effort to create models that can be replicated throughout the Sierra, the Alliance was part of a coordinating team leading the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (CABY IRWMP). The leadership of this innovative new effort includes water agencies, businesses, and conservation groups. Together, we have created a plan that protects the natural environment, supplies water to those who need it, and improves water quality. We see the CABY IRWMP as a model that can be replicated throughout the Sierra. **In March we convened a regional conference to share the latest on integrated water efforts, promote collaboration and ensure environmental health is strongly represented in water planning efforts.**



Finally, we made progress on water conservation, which is the leading strategy for helping ensure a reliable water supply in the future, while protecting our ecosystem health. The Alliance continues to serve on the California Urban Water Conservation Council, and we were a critical voice in championing strong water conservation measures at the state level. We also play an important role in highlighting the connection between urban water users and the upper rivers and lakes of the Sierra. The Sierra can not be saved by only working within its borders – because our waters, wildlife, and human visitors connect us to the rest of California and Nevada every moment!



The Sustainable Sierra Watersheds Project establishes stewardship groups on all segments of Sierra watersheds and ensures these Sierra watershed groups effectively assess, restore and protect their watersheds.

This fiscal year the Alliance was awarded \$925,000 from the State Water Board to assess how land use practices impact water quality and habitat function in Sierra waterways and create models for land and water protection and restoration. To implement this grant, we created three new volunteer water monitoring programs and expanded four existing programs spanning the Sierra.



These efforts are focused on monitoring how land use practices impact water quality. The watershed program also launched four new demonstration sites showing how landscaping can protect Sierra rivers, lakes and streams, as well

as achieve other conservation goals. In South Lake Tahoe, the model project site was chosen through a contest. The winner was the South Lake Tahoe Women's Center, who will receive free labor, supplies and expert installation. We also started work on producing a Sierra home landscaping guide.

Sustainable Organization Program

To effectively lead our programs, we must have a sustainable organization. **This year, the Alliance grew from five to ten staff, increased our budget, and diversified our funding stream.** We also hosted a number of great events, because after all, sustainability requires having fun! Our White Holiday Party in December coated our office in snowflakes and white Russians, in March we hosted the entertaining Patagonia Presents the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival in South Lake Tahoe, in April we celebrated Earth Day and offered a great wildflower walk along the American River, and in May we toured the historic Thunderbird Lodge on Lake Tahoe. Thanks to a host of 'hosts' and volunteers, we had a great time.

The organization would like to thank everyone who donated their time, money and services during the past fiscal year!!



Friends of the Sierra Nevada Alliance

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

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MEMBER GROUPS

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Alliance for a Post-Petroleum Local Economy (APPLE)
CA Native Plant Society -Redbud Chapter
CA Native Plant Society -Tahoe Chapter
California Oak Foundation
California Outdoors
California Wilderness Coalition
Clover Valley Foundation
Echo Lakes Environment Fund
EPIC
Friends of Hope Valley
Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain
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June Lake Advocates

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Mountain Lion Foundation
Mountain Meadows Conservancy
Natural Heritage Institute
North Fork American River Alliance
North Tahoe Development Watch
Owens Valley Committee
Protect American River Canyons
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Revive the San Joaquin River Ridge
Rural Quality Coalition
San Joaquin River Intertribal Heritage Ed Corp
Sequoia Forestkeeper
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Sierra & Foothill Citizens Alliance
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter
Sierra Club Mineral King 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 Cycle Foundation
Sierra Watch
Snowlands Network
Sugar Pine Foundation
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Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth
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Tuolumne County Land Trust
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FISCAL SPONSORSHIP GROUPS

Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth
Save Round Valley Alliance
Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition
North Tahoe Development Watch
Squaw Valley Gateway Community

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The Alliance

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Thank you!

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Vaughn Johnson,
our tax preparer

And everyone who
donates items for
our auctions!

SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Fiscal Year 2006/2007 Financial Statement

BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 2007

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 181,018
Accounts Receivable	\$1,842,656
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,023,674

Liabilities And Net Assets	
Accounts Payable/Accrued Expenses	\$ 141,898
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 141,898

Commitment And Contingency ¹	
Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$ 193,890
Net Assets - Temporarily Restricted	\$1,687,886
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$1,881,776

Total Liabilities And Net Assets \$2,023,674

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Board of Directors	\$ 15,330
Contributions	\$ 201,300
Conference & Events	\$ 35,495
Grants (Government & Private)	\$2,197,830
In-Kind	\$ 370,090
Member Groups	\$ 8,735
Interest & Fiscal Sponsorship	\$ 16,737
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,845,517

EXPENSES

Admin. Personnel	\$ 10,867
Conference	\$ 40,817
Fundraising	\$ 68,034
Legislative Advocacy	\$ 10,000
Office Expenses	\$ 25,793
Program Consultants	\$ 143,773
Program Expenses	\$ 86,437
Program Personnel	\$ 332,471
Program Regranting	\$ 33,937
Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership	\$ 338,374
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,090,503

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%

In-Kind 12.5%

Contributions 7%

Board of Directors 1%

Conference & Events 1%

Member Groups .5%

Interest & Fiscal Sponsorship 1%

EXPENSES

AmeriCorps 31%

Program Personnel 30.5%

Program Consultants 13.2%

Program Expenses 7.9%

Fundraising 6.2%

Conference 3.7%

Program Regranting 3.1%

Office Expenses 2.4%

Legislative Advocacy 1%

Admin. Personnel 1%



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