

# Annual Report

**Fiscal Year  
2007 - 2008**

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008



*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.*

## Annual Report July 2007 to July 2008

Climate change and population pressures continue to threaten the beauty, biodiversity and rural quality of life we all hold so dear here in the Sierra Nevada. News of small mountain critters moving higher up in the Sierra as a result of warming trends was reported throughout the region, while massive new development proposals stand to carve up prime agricultural and ranch lands. But as these challenges confront the region, the Sierra Nevada Alliance is stepping up to meet these challenges and make a difference by expanding our programs.

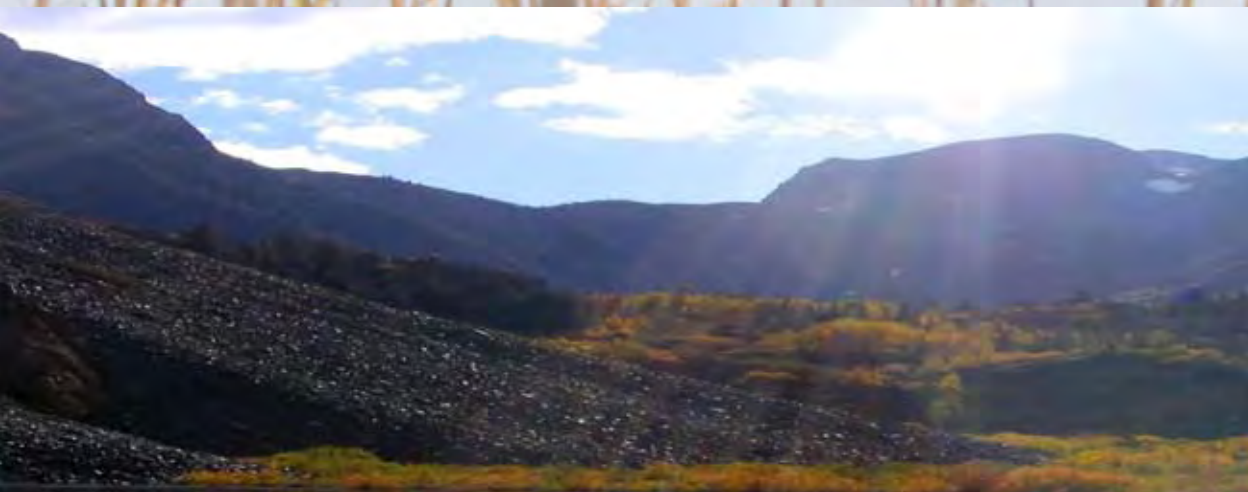


*Since 1993, the Sierra Nevada Alliance has been protecting and restoring Sierra lands, water, wildlife and rural communities. From July 2007 through June 2008, the Alliance supported individual and group efforts saving Sierra special places and united efforts for regional sustainability.*

### **The Sierra Nevada Alliance's Sustainable Sierra Program Areas**

The Alliance is committed to leaving our communities better than we found them (ecologically, economically and socially) and ensuring the beauty and inspiration of this range of light are sustained for future generations. To achieve this, the Alliance has three major program areas:

- **The Sustainable Community Group Programs** build the capacity of local community groups to protect and restore all the Sierra's special places.
- **The Sustainable Resource Protection Programs** tackle regional issues and unite individual efforts to achieve regional sustainability goals.
- **The Sustainable Organization Programs** build and maintain the Alliance's organizational capacity to achieve the goals of the other two programs.





## The Sustainable Community Group Programs

The Sierra Nevada Alliance's network of conservation groups has been at the forefront of promoting a conservation and sustainability ethic in local Sierra communities for many years. These groups are involved in stewarding a variety of resource management activities: hydropower relicensing, watershed restoration, community land use planning, timber harvest planning, and much more. **This fiscal year the Alliance grew to a network of over 95 member groups!**

The Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) celebrated completion of its first year in December 2007. This program increases the capacity of Sierra-based non-profits and agencies to play a leading role in protection, stewardship and restoration of public lands, watersheds, habitats and working landscapes in the Sierra Nevada. Twenty-seven full-time AmeriCorps members were recruited and trained by the Alliance and served with 19 partnering conservation organizations and agencies. In the first year these 27 AmeriCorps members had an amazing impact across the region: restoring 4,156 acres, conducting ecological monitoring on 389 sites and educating over 29,426 people about Sierra environmental issues and leveraging the efforts of over 2,100 volunteers.

SNAP is now in its second year of the program in 2008, recruiting and selecting another 27 talented and committed Members to serve with 19 partners. **By June 30, 2008, mid-way through the service year, these 2008 members have restored an additional 1,948 acres, monitored over 348 sites and educated 16,216 people, and recruited and supported 2,099 volunteers.**



Our 14th Annual Conference, in August of 2007, focused on *“Sustainable Sierra – Exploring ways to sustain our region, our movement and ourselves.”*



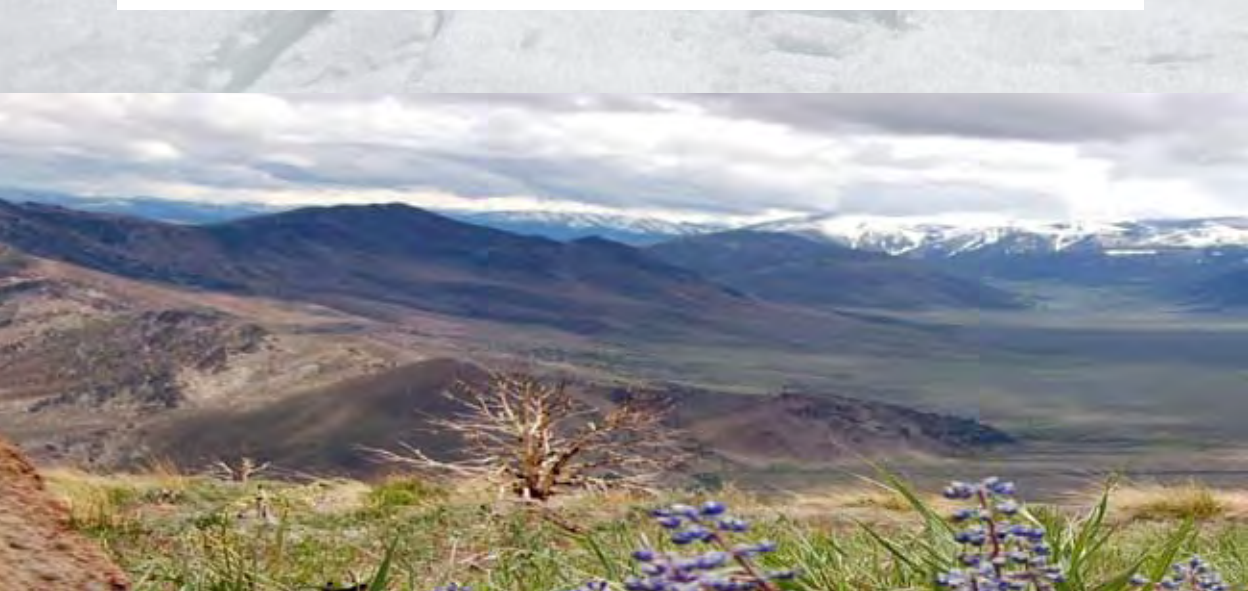
This event was attended by over 225 people from across California and provided opportunities to network, gather some take-home tools and reenergize for the challenges facing the Sierra. Workshops included Planning Sustainable Sierra Communities – an event cosponsored with the American Planning Association of Sacramento and the Central Valley – educating participants on tools for smart community planning and inspiring everyone to bolster their efforts to protect the Sierra.

The Alliance continued to partner and work with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to build the capacity of the region. The Conservancy, established by the Alliance and regional partners through legislation two years ago, gave out its first grants this fiscal year. The Alliance once again organized Sierra Day at the Capitol in May 2008 with partner The Sierra Fund. This day provided information to every California legislator on the need for support of Sierra conservation. **Thanks to these Sierra Days and other efforts, the Conservancy had the budget to provide over \$15 million dollars of support for a variety of stewardship efforts.** The Alliance assisted our member groups in applying for these grants and is proud that many great projects received the support needed to launch.

Finally, the Alliance provided a variety of other services to our network of over 95 member groups. We supported fledgling conservation groups getting started by acting as a fiscal sponsor for five groups. We also continued to forward alerts on critical Sierra issues and distribute our Sierra Nevada Alliance Weekly by email with the latest news, events and resources relevant to Sierra conservation.

### **Sustainable Resource Protection Programs**

This program area has three major programs addressing the most critical issues facing the Sierra Nevada.



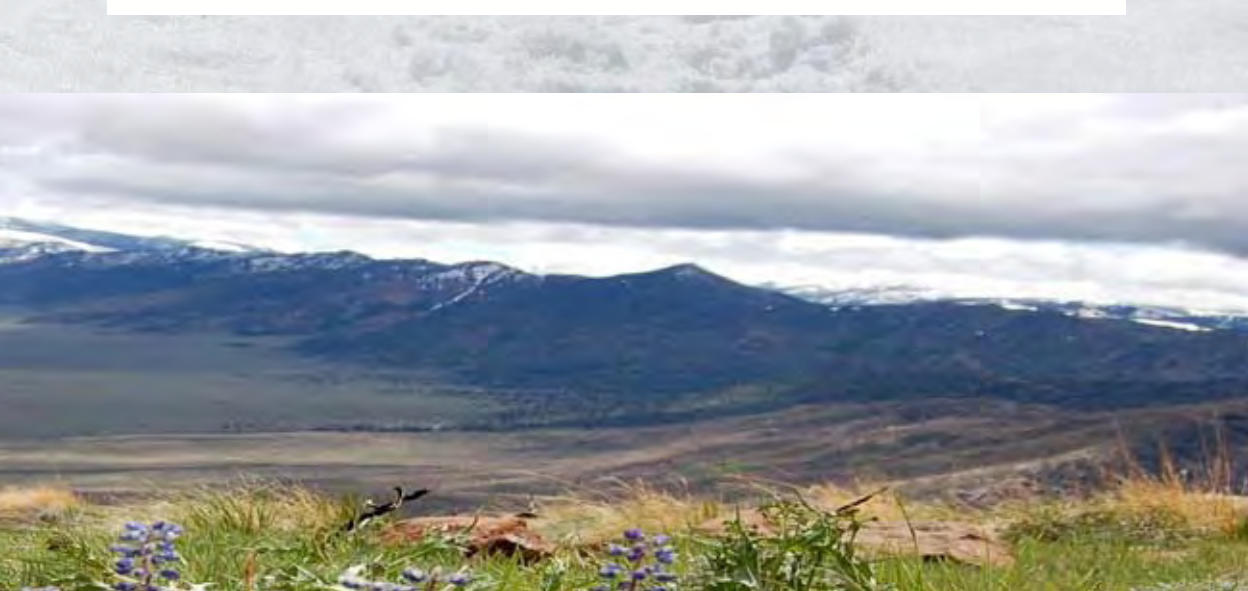


**The Sustainable Land Use Program** protects Sierra lands, water, wildlife and rural quality of life by shaping smart land use planning in all Sierra Nevada counties. The campaign's goals include to: 1) Promote good county general plan policies and ensure model plans are adopted in target counties while building the skills and capacity of member groups to be on-going watchdogs; 2) Support efforts to fight bad development proposals; 3) Improve understanding of regional trends and raise awareness and effort toward creating a sustainable region.

In fall 2007 the Alliance released *Dangerous Development: Wildfire and Rural Sprawl in the Sierra Nevada*, which reviews how wildfire and population growth are on a collision course and how current land-use policies fail at-risk communities. **The report finds that 94% of land slated for new development in the Sierra is in very high or extreme fire threat areas.** Receiving widespread media coverage, the report and its suggestions for improving land use planning to decrease the threat to communities attracted attention of the state administration as well as legislators.

The Alliance also took on land use and water issues, creating a new guide in partnership with the Local Government Commission called *Planning for Water-Wise Development in the Sierra* and hosting a summit on the nexus between land use and water policy. How and where we grow has significant impacts on our rivers, lakes and streams. The report and Summit pointed out ways for county and city land use planners to better protect waters, as well as ways that developers and others can improve site plans for better protection and restoration of our critical natural resources.

Work continued on shaping good general plans in priority Sierra Nevada counties. The Alliance helped the Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth build the capacity of their coalition to shape their county general plan to protect their area (a gateway to Sequoia



National Park), and strengthen their efforts to stop a 10,000 unit new development on prime ranch land in an endangered condor habitat, far from existing community infrastructure.

The Alliance also released our annual Ski Area Environmental Scorecard, as part of a Ski Area Citizens Coalition. We highlighted the California ski resorts who previously received low grades now receiving As and Bs as a result of improved environmental stewardship. Once again a variety of media outlets picked up the information to spread the word – and based on the happy and unhappy comments from ski resort managers, the message to be green is getting through.



A second major program under the Alliance's Sustainable Resource Protection Program is the **Sierra Water & Climate Change Campaign** which 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 natural environment while adapting to the changing climate. This campaign conducts public education, tracks changes, and champions climate-smart, environment-friendly water policy at the state level. This latter effort includes collaborating on planning, using adaptive management and prioritizing conservation and efficiency to protect our natural environment.

The Alliance updated and distributed 500 copies of our popular *Sierra Climate Change Toolkit* - providing a cutting edge tool regarding adapting to climate change. **Copies of this toolkit and a presentation by the Alliance were requested by the Deputy Secretary of Climate Change for the CA Resources Agency who is leading the state's adaptation planning.**

This campaign also continues to lead regional and state efforts to protect Sierra waters while addressing climate change. We helped acquire funding and provided start-up support to launch integrated regional water management planning (IRWMP) in Inyo and Mono Counties and in the





Southern Sierra. We also advocated with the Planning and Conservation League, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water and Clean Water Action for state support of stronger guidelines to encourage IRWMPs to have multiple stakeholder decision making and involvement to ensure the best plans. These combined efforts over the past year convinced legislators and many at the Department of Water Resources to improve their guidelines.

The Alliance was the co-convener of the California Urban Water Conservation Council in the first half of 2008 and helped lead efforts to strengthen state water conservation guidelines, as well as address unique Sierra water conservation issues such as foothill conveyance of water in canals. **Finally, we convened the Sierra Environmental Water Caucus throughout the fiscal year and helped provide comments on the State Water Plan and other state climate change plans to ensure inclusion and protection of Sierra resources.**

**The Sustainable Sierra Watershed Program** works to establish stewardship groups on all segments of the 24 Sierra watersheds and ensures these Sierra watershed groups

effectively assess, restore and protect their watersheds. This fiscal year the program helped start nine new volunteer water monitoring programs throughout the Sierra, six of which focused on macro invertebrate (water bug) monitoring that will provide information on land use practices triggering more sediment



or pollution to flow into Sierra rivers, lakes and streams. The program is also participating with other watershed leaders from across the state to create indicators to gauge and compare the success of watershed efforts. The Alliance was awarded a grant from the Department of Water Resources to develop model socio-economic indicators to possibly export to other areas of the Sierra and state. The program also continued to issue



information, updates and offer trainings to support efforts on all the major watersheds of the Sierra.

**One of the most successful projects of the year that the Alliance Watershed Program launched was our new Sierra Nevada Yard & Garden project.**

The *Sierra Nevada Yard & Garden* guide was created in conjunction with advisors from CalFire, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, California Resource Conservation Districts and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

This one-of-kind guide for homeowners helps homeowners create beautiful



Sierra friendly yards and gardens that guard against wildfire, live in harmony with wildlife, provide easy to care for native and adapted plants, and protect and conserve community waters. The project distributed the guide and identified four local community groups and agencies to start new Sierra Yard & Garden outreach programs to assist homeowners in creating Sierra friendly yards throughout the region.

## **Sustainable Organization Programs**

To effectively lead our programs, we must have a sustainable organization. This year the Alliance grew from ten staff to thirteen (seventeen if you count the summer interns), necessitating an expansion of our office space. We also increased our income and continued to diversify our funding streams. We hired our first Associate Director to help upgrade our administrative operations to accommodate our growing size and help manage our expanded staff. We continued to have fun too, holding our annual Wildflower Walk in Coloma, hosting the Patagonia Presents Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival, trick or treating on Halloween with the office dogs, hosting our local Earth Day Happy Hour, and having another spirited Winter Holiday party. So while there is much to do to save the Sierra, the Alliance staff and board continue to enjoy and sustain themselves to continue doing good work for the long term.

**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  
fiscal year  
2007/2008.*

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## Resources Legacy Fund Foundation

## Department of Water Resources

## Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment

## Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation

## Panta Rhea Foundation

## El Dorado Irrigation District (CABY IRWMP)

## California Urban Water Conservation Council

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California Oak Foundation  
California Save our Streams Council  
California Trout Eastern Sierra Program  
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation  
Clover Valley Foundation  
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Echo Lakes Environment Fund  
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Friends of Hope Valley  
Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain  
Friends of Sierra Rock Art  
Friends of the Inyo

Friends of the North Fork  
Gold Country Fly Fishers  
High Sierra Rural Alliance  
Jumping Frog Research Institute  
June Lake Advocates  
Lake Spirits  
Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition  
League to Save Lake Tahoe  
Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Council  
Mono Lake Committee  
Mountain Area Preservation Foundation  
Mountain Meadows Conservancy  
Nevada County Local Food Coalition  
North Fork American River Alliance  
Pacific Rivers Council  
People for Healthy Forests  
Planning & Conservation League  
Protect American River Canyons  
Revive the San Joaquin  
Rural Quality Coalition  
Sequoia Forestkeeper  
Sequoia Riverlands Trust  
Serene Lakes Property Owner's Association  
Sierra & Foothill Citizens Alliance  
Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Coalition  
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 Watch  
Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships  
Snowlands Network  
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Echo Lakes Environment Fund  
EDAW Inc  
Environmental Incentives, LLC  
Environment Now

Foothill Conservancy  
Friends of the North Fork  
Friends of the River  
Patty Glaser & Sam Mudie  
GreenInfo Network  
Integrated Environmental Restoration  
Bob Johnston  
League to Save Lake Tahoe  
Terry & Carol Manning  
MERG  
Mono Lake Committee  
Mountain Meadows Conservancy  
Placer County Water Agency  
Planning & Conservation League  
Patagonia  
Marlee Powell  
River Ridge Ranch  
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment  
Christine Rozance  
Sequoia Riverlands Trust  
Shute Mihaly & Weinberger LLP  
Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Coalition  
Sierra Club California  
Sierra Club Maidu Group  
Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter  
Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter  
Sierra Watch  
SRVA Advocates for Smart Growth  
Trust for Public Land  
Tuolumne County Land Trust  
Nancy and John Wagner  
Stan & Carl Weidert Biologicals  
Upper Merced River Watershed Group

## FISCAL SPONSORSHIP GROUPS

Foothills Water Network  
Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition

North Tahoe Development Watch  
Save Round Valley Alliance  
Squaw Valley Gateway Communities  
Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth

## The Alliance relies on gifts of goods and services from supportive businesses and our many volunteers.

Alpen Sierra Coffee Company  
Brent H. Coeur-Barron / Jensen & Coeur-Barron, LLP  
Grass Roots  
Lake Tahoe Community College  
Patagonia@Heavenly  
Tahoe Tallac Association  
Tallac Brewing  
Wide Awake Cafe  
Brian White / White's Graphics  
Yosemite Bug Hostel  
And everyone who donates items for our auctions!

## ALLIANCE BOARD MEMBERS

Jan Chatten-Brown  
Jenny Cooper  
Tracy Grubbs  
Addie Jacobson  
Robert Johnston  
Tim Little  
Terry Manning  
Geoff McQuilken  
Pete Pumphrey  
Betsy Reifsnider  
Steve Robinson  
Christine Rozance

## PHOTOS COURTESY OF:

Autumn Bernstein  
Joan Clayburgh  
Jim Delso  
Marion Gee  
Stephen Ingram  
Rick Knepp  
Do Lee  
Genevieve Marsh  
Kay Ogden  
Tim Palmer

Thank you!

# SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

## BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 2008

### ASSETS

Cash	\$ 296,141
Accounts Receivable	\$1,169,028
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,465,169</b>

### Liabilities And Net Assets

Accounts Payable/Accrued Expenses	\$ 67,330
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 67,330</b>

### Commitment And Contingency<sup>1</sup>

Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$ 163,552
Net Assets - Temporarily Restricted	\$1,240,345
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,403,897</b>

**Total Liabilities And Net Assets** \$1,471,227

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

### SUPPORT & REVENUE

Board of Directors	\$ 12,860
Contributions	\$ 97,410
Conference & Events	\$ 27,930
Grants (Government & Private)	\$ 771,056
In-Kind	\$ 183,759
Member Groups	\$ 13,710
Interest & Fiscal Sponsorship	\$ 59,075

**TOTAL REVENUE** \$1,165,800

### EXPENSES

Admin. Personnel	\$ 69,470
Conference	\$ 47,924
Fundraising	\$ 79,038
Legislative Advocacy	\$ 11,068
Office Expenses	\$ 26,658
Program Consultants	\$ 146,598
Program Expenses	\$ 147,521
Program Personnel	\$ 324,765
Program Regranting	\$ 126,817
Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership	\$ 663,820

**TOTAL EXPENSES** <sup>2</sup> \$1,643,679

#### Notes to the Balance Sheet

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Expenses in excess of revenue were paid by grants received in prior years and committed to this fiscal year.

### SUPPORT & REVENUE

Grants 66%

In-Kind 16%

Contributions 8%

Interest & Fiscal Sponsorship 5%

Conference & Events 2%

Board of Directors 1%

Member Groups 1%

### EXPENSES

AmeriCorps 40%

Program Personnel 20%

Program Consultants 9%

Program Expenses 9%

Program Regranting 8%

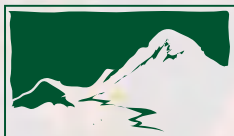
Fundraising 5%

Admin. Personnel 4%

Conference 3%

Office Expenses 2%

Legislative Advocacy 1%



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