Sierra Nevada Alliance Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008 - 2009





The Sierra Nevada, while world renowned for its beauty, diverse wildlife and many special places, continues to face significant challenges. Growth and development proposals to expand sprawl over working ranchlands and sensitive habitat continue throughout the Sierra. The recent State of California's climate report also noted that the Sierra and the rest of the state will begin to see 1-in-100 year extreme weather events occurring every 10 years. These extreme weather events will greatly impact native species and communities. And as we all know, species are declining around the world, and the Sierra is no exception. In the Sierra Nevada dramatic changes to frog and toad populations are occurring, such as the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog population disappearing from 95% of its historic habitat.

But as these challenges confront the region, the Sierra Nevada Alliance carried on our great work to stand up to these challenges and make a difference for a better tomorrow.

Since 1993, the Sierra Nevada Alliance has been protecting and restoring
Sierra lands, water, wildlife and rural communities.

From July 2008 through June 2009, the Alliance supported individual and group efforts saving Sierra special places and united efforts together 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 implement this, the Alliance has three major program areas:

- The Sustainable Community Group Programs build the capacity of individual group efforts to protect and restore all the Sierra's special places.
- The Sustainable Resource Protection Programs tackle regional issues and unite 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 Program Area

The Sierra Nevada Alliance's network of conservation groups continues to be at the forefront of promoting a conservation and sustainability ethic in local Sierra communities. These groups steward a variety of resource management activities: hydropower relicensing, watershed restoration, community land use planning, timber harvest planning, and much more. The Alliance's Community Group Program works to build the capacity of individuals and groups to strengthen these stewardship efforts.

The Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP), administered by the Alliance, continues to provide broad scale restoration, environmental education and habitat monitoring across the Sierra Nevada, while expanding the capacity of partnering conservation groups and agencies. In 2008, 26 SNAP Members restored 2151 acres, monitored 362 sites, and provided environmental education to 19,919 people about Sierra conservation issues! Not only did SNAP get important work done for the Sierra, but Members who served with partner groups during the year received invaluable experience to launch their environmental careers, with nine Members receiving career positions in the Sierra after finishing their SNAP service. We also launched the 2009 SNAP program in January placing 27 members with 21 sites. Building on the success of this program in its first two years, the Alliance was able to earn an AmeriCorps award to continue SNAP through 2012. The Alliance expanded our network during this fiscal year significantly, renewing 97% of our Member Groups and growing to 106 groups in the network. We continued to build the capacity of our network by organizing our 15th Annual Conference & Anniversary Celebration in North Tahoe in early fall of 2008. Over 250 folks attended and gave it great reviews for training,

networking and inspiration. We also had participants create a Sierra Vision 2018, laying out goals and action steps for the next 10 years to collectively work towards protection and stewardship of the Sierra.

The Alliance continues to partner with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to build the capacity of the region. The Alliance kept our Member Groups connected to this new agency and up-todate on agency actions. Over \$2 million dollars of Sierra Nevada Conservancy funding went to Member Groups since December 2007 through June 2008. This is close to 22% of their total allocations going to Alliance Member Group conservation projects in the Sierra! We also organized the Annual Sierra Day at the Capitol with The Sierra Fund, to educate legislators about the conservation needs in the Sierra Nevada and to continue state support for needed restoration and protection.

Finally, the Alliance Member Group Support program provided a variety of other services to our network. We supported nine fledgling conservation groups who were getting started by being a fiscal sponsor: the Foothill Water Network, Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth, Squaw Valley Gateway Community, North Tahoe Development Watch, Friends of Burke Creek, Friends of West Shore, Lake Spirits, Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition and Save Round Valley Alliance. We also continued to forward alerts on critical Sierra issues and distribute our Sierra Nevada Alliance Weekly by email with the latest news, funding opportunities, events and resource leads relevant to Sierra conservation.

Sustainable Resource Protection Program Area

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

One major 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 our 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 integrating and collaborating on planning, using adaptive management and prioritizing conservation and efficiency to protect our natural environment.

The Water & Climate Change Program had an impressive influence on state and regional efforts managing water that impact the Sierra. The California Adaptation Strategy, with Alliance urging, adopted principles for adaptation which were symbiotic with our Sierra Nevada Alliance principles to ensure we protect our natural resources while sustaining healthy communities. A staff member was also invited to serve on the Department of Water Resources (DWR)'s Climate Change Technical Advisory Group. This unique opportunity allows the Alliance to offer continuing advice on how to address climate change in ways that protect Sierra resources.





The Alliance also raised funds for, and supported the start up of, strong efforts for an Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and Southern Sierra IRWMP. Our goal is to support local leaders in protecting their ecosystems and high quality water, while sustaining water supply. We also launched a new collaborative effort called the Sierra Water Work Group, to champion Sierra water issues and coordinate among plans, agencies & NGOs to avoid "recreating the wheel" and share the best strategies for protecting Sierra waters.

The Water & Climate Change Program continues to build a broad network committed to adapting to climate change in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. During the fiscal year staff expanded the number of groups who have taken the Adaptation Pledge from 24 to 54. The Alliance educated thousands of individuals and leaders on the importance of protecting Sierra headwaters through outreach efforts and our Investing in Sierra Headwaters paper. The Alliance also worked with researcher Carlos Davidson to call attention to the plight of Sierra frogs. We released the report State of Sierra Frogs and held two public workshops showcasing the challenges of our Sierra frogs and toads to survive.

The Sustainable Sierra Watershed Program establishes stewardship groups on all segments of Sierra watersheds and ensures these Sierra watershed groups effectively assess, restore and protect their watersheds. The Sierra Watersheds Program had four major targets and tactics for the fiscal year 08-09: 1) Assess the health of six major Sierra rivers by conducting chemical, physical, and habitat monitoring, 2) Work with conservation organizations, agencies and homeowners to control nonpoint source pollution from residential properties, 3) Work with watershed groups and local planning officials to promote water-wise development in Sierra watershed, and 4) develop and test socioeconomic indicators that demonstrate the value of the watershed approach.

The Watershed Program was able to recruit and train a new organization to lead the South Lake Tahoe volunteer monitoring program, and supported volunteer monitoring on the south shore during the transition. The program also started a pilot project for the State of California to develop social and economic indicators to measure the value of watershed efforts. This project had just started when State funding was frozen and the project was stopped.

The Watershed Program continued to promote a strong yard and garden conservation program in the Sierra to help homeowners achieve the yard of their dreams while stewarding wildlife, water resources and defending their home from fire. The program mailed out 2,000 of our popular Sierra Nevada Yard & Garden guides and trained four groups in communities around the Sierra on how to offer free homeowner consultations. This program was also halted in December 2008 with the State freeze on grant contracts.

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:

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.

The Watershed & Land Use Programs helped fund and support six community forums on Land & Water Policy, building on the release of our Planning for Water-Wise Development in the Sierra guide. All too often development not only fails to protect water resources, but pollutes water quality and destroys important river and lake habitat. The Alliance's community forums had diverse stakeholders participate and served to improve land use planning, communication and understanding with water managers.





The Land Use program also completed a series of regional meetings with leading state and local land use experts to craft a Regional Planning Whitepaper, helping the Alliance determine what regional land use planning efforts held the most potential to successfully protect natural resources while encouraging vibrant local communities.

Our focused efforts in Tulare County with the Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth (TCCRG) increased pressure on the Tulare County Board of Supervisors to include a healthy growth alternative for the general plan update. In 2008 TCCRG was successful in forcing the county to rescind the original release of the environmental analysis for the General Plan because of its lack of a true healthy growth alternative. Though a revised environmental analysis on the plan has yet to be released, TCCRG has continued to build local and regional coalitions to support their efforts.

The Alliance also released our annual Ski Area Environmental Scorecard as part of the Ski Area Citizens Coalition. The scorecard rates ski areas to their environmental practices, such as destruction of wildlands or use and promotion of renewable energy. The 2008/2009 Ski Area Scorecard got picked up in over 80 media outlets – highlighting good resorts and practices and exposing those resorts who pollute or harm the environment.

Sustainable Organization Programs

To effectively lead our programs, we must have a sustainable organization. 2008-2009 offered a major challenge when in December 2008 the State of California in an unprecedented action froze grant contracts. This freeze stopped work on our Watershed Program from December through June and the State also did not reimburse the Alliance for work performed under contract from July 2008 through December 2008. In effect, this reduced our budget by \$500,000. Thanks to the generous help of The Sierra Fund, John & Patty Brissenden Fund, the Sarah Forslund Fund, and the Michael & Judy Funk Fund the Alliance secured a significant loan to pay most of our outstanding bills incurred for these contracts that were not being covered by reimbursements. Sadly however, this unexpected reduction in income required the Alliance to let go of four staff and the remaining nine staff took 10-50% furloughs and pay cuts to complete the fiscal year.

The good news is that the Alliance quickly and efficiently responded to this crisis. Individuals, staff, the Board of Directors, major donors, and foundation supporters all stepped up to keep the Alliance strong and moving forward during this time of financial crisis. Most notable, the Alliance still achieved the outstanding work chronicled in this Annual Report. Staff and Board kept their spirits up by doing a new Strategic Plan to guide the organization over the next five years and reorganizing staff into new issue teams to launch cutting-edge efforts for the next fiscal year.

The organization would like to thank everyone who donated their time, money and services during the past fiscal year. The Alliance is proud to continue "keeping light in the range".





Friends of the Sierra Nevada Alliance

The Alliance
would like to
thank everyone
who donated
during fiscal year
2008/2009.

California
Department of
Water Resources

California State Water Resources Control Board

Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation

Corporation for National and Community Service/ CalVolunteers

Panta Rhea Foundation

Resources Legacy Fund Foundation

Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund

Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

The Sierra Fund

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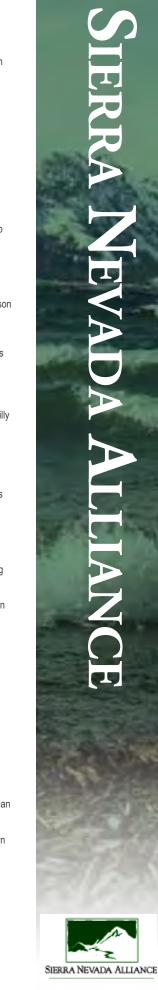
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John Moore

Rosalie Morosin

Don Dupont & Meg

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Barbara Yost

Judith Abeles Warren Alford Caryn Anderson Leland Anderson Will Anderson Stephen & Joyce

Babula Susan Backs Barbara Balen Mackenzie Banta Mary Barkley Shelly Barnes Joyce Bender Mary Ellen Benier Paul Benioff **Emily Benner** Constance Berg Michele Berkowitz Teresa Bertrand Jeanete Biasotti Heather Boothe Betty Boykin David Bradford Susan Bragstad Anne Bredon Richard Briscoe Karen Brooks Tom Camara DB & Nancy Cameron Diana Campbell Sally Cancelmo Dave Carneggie K Carreau **Donald Casavant** Barry Cavaghan Frank Ligon & Christine Champe Megan Chillemi Richard Cimino Gale Cohen-DeMarco Kristie Connolly Patricia Cooper-Smith Cristi Creegan Jen Cressy Jean Crist Ken Crowlev Doug Cushman Gayle Dana Lisa Dearing David DeStefano Mike Diggles Joseph Donohoe Mark Drohman Roger Duba Madonna Dunbar Michelle Eaton Marcia Edwards Bruce Eisner Susan Eisner Flint Ellsworth Thomas Feige Karen Fink Shirley Fischer Carolyn Foley Sandy Follett Paul Foster Bill Frye Marnie Gaede Janet & John Gauger Susan Gearhart Dorothy Geisler Jim Gibson Edwin Glass

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Keegan Athey

William & Karen

Doug Goodall Peter Graf Bruce & Bernice Grant Ned Greene Jamie Greenough Mignon & Gerald Gregg Judy Guinn Lindsay Gusses John Gussman Rebecca Hahn Terry Halligan Timmarie Hamill Kathy Hanson Glenna Hardin Joan Hardy Richard Harvey John Haws Anne Adams Helms Russ Henly Ian Herdell Judith Hildinger Jeannette Holliday Katheryn and Fred Walter Howard Nancy Howe Jean Huettis William Hull Michael Hunter Joan Intrator Richard Izmirian Mary Jacobs Verna R. Johnston William Joyce Elvce Judith Eric Jung Richard Kannisto Mike Keesee Charlie Kellermyer Linda Kilb Kim King Harold Klieforth Sally Kotnik Ralph Kraetsch Peter Kyle Jane Ann Lamph Michelle & Robert Larsen Don Lauer Debra Lawlor Julie Leimbach Michael Lengyel David Lewis Marcus Libkind Merrill Lindquist Richard Link John Livermore Richard Lohman Peggy Fulder & Ron Stephen Lyon James Lytjen James & Lynette Lytthans Ruth MacFarlane Hank Malasky Mary Louise Mangold William Marken Dan & Dalia Marshall Ford Mastick Terry Maul Tara McCarthy

SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

SUSTAINING

cont. Colleen McDonough Thomas Meeks Jerry Meral Doug Merriman Thomas Metcalf Alice Mevers Robin Miller Kim & Curtis Milliron Robert Mills Jeff Miner Leigh Mintz Bill & Sandy Mixsell Bruce Mohagen John Morris Edwin & Phyllis Motell Gregory & Pamela Leonard Nelson Teresa Nemeth Diane Neubert Brian Newton Cindy Ochoa Joe O'Hagan Catherine O'Riley Stu & Julie Osbruck Mark Palley Timothy Palmer Pamela Pederson David Pegos Sarah Pender Paul & Dianne Petersen Robert Pevton Richard Pickings Stratton Pierce Bernard Pipkin Karl Pister Jason Pollard Susan Pownall Carolyn Pretzer Mike Prior Patricia Puterbaugh Galen Ramos Charles Rapp Henry Raymond Frank Reetz Michael Rifkind Amy Roberts Dale Roberts Winslow Rogers Greg & Linda Rose Rob Russell Ted Beedy & Susan Sanders Patricia Sarvis Marvin Schinnerer Shirley & Bob Schmelczer Richard Schoenbrun Allan Schoenherr Steve Schoenig Patricia Schulz Richard Scott Janet Seidman-Domas

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Melanie Silva Grace Smith Kathy Southern Samuel Sparck Jim Stamates Andrea Stanley John Stephens Mindy Steuer Jan Stevens Susan Stevenson Christopher Stone Linda Stone Dan Sussman Gertrude Tarlton Melissa Thaw Byron & Anne Thomas Tom Turner Toby Tyler Jolie Urushibata Peter Van Zant Tom Varin Sam & Jeff Vasey James Vertin Kathryn Vossen Mary Wagner Debbi Waldear Stephen & Judy **Christal Waters** Matthew Watson Judy Weber Nancy Weber Steven Weintraub Wendy Wendlandt Alexandra Wenzel Pete Wessel Jasmine Wevers William Whiteside Claudia Whitnah Alexa Williams George & Marilyn Winard Timothy Woodall Melinda Wright

MEMBER GROUPS

Mistia & Harmon

Advocates for Mammoth Alpine Watershed Group

Alta Peak Chapter CA Native Plant Society

Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance

Roh Stack Bristlecone Chapter CA Native Plant

Society California Oak

Foundation

California Save our Streams Council California Wilderness

Coalition Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation

Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee

Clover Valley Foundation Community Action Project Defenders of Wildlife Donner Summit Area Association Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) **Ebbetts Pass Forest** Watch Echo Lakes Environment Fund

FoCuS-Foothill Collaborative for Sustainability Foothill Conservancy

Foothills Water Network

Forest Issues Group Friends of Burke Creek

Friends of Deer Creek

Friends of Hope Valley Friends of Jesse

Morrow Mountain Friends of Kirkwood Assoc

Friends of Sierra Rock Art

Friends of Silver King Creek

Friends of the Inyo Friends of the North Fork

Friends of the West Shore

Gold Country Fly Fishers

High Sierra Rural Alliance

June Lake Advocates Lake Spirits

Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition

League to Save Lake Tahoe

Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible

Mark Drew (California Trout?)

Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Council

Mono Lake Committee

Motherlode Land Trust

Mountain Area Preservation Foundation

Mountain Meadows Conservancy

Nevada County Land Trust

Nevada County Local Food Coalition

North Fork American River Alliance Pacific Rivers

People for Healthy Forests

Council

Planning and Conservation League Protect American River Canvons

Redbud Chapter CA Native Plant Society

Revive the San Joaquin

River Ridge Rural Quality Coalition

San Joaquin River Intertribal Heritage Ed Corp

San Joaquin Valley Water Leadership Forum

Save the Foothills Coalition SC Wildlands

Sequoia Forestkeeper

Sequoia Riverlands

Serene Lakes Property Owner's Association Sierra & Foothill

Citizens Alliance

Sierra Buttes/Lakes **Basin Coalition** Sierra Club Angeles

Sierra Club Maidu Group

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

Sierra Club Tehipite

Sierra Club Yahi Group Sierra Cycling

Foundation Sierra Foothills Audubon Society

Sierra Nevada Deep Ecology Institute Sierra Watch

Sierra Watershed

Education Partnerships Snowlands Network

South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)

Sugar Pine Foundation Tahoe Chapter CA Native Plant Society Tahoe-Baikal Institute

The Sierra Fund Truckee River

Watershed Council Tulare County Citizens for Responsible

Growth ' **Tuolumne County** Citizens for Responsible Growth

Tuolumne County Land Trust

Tuolumne River Trust Upper Merced River Watershed Group Voters Choice of **Tuolumne County** Wallace Citizens Serving Residents Washoe Meadows Community Group Wildflowers Forever WildPlaces Wolf Creek Community

Yosemite Area Audubon

EVENT SPONSORS

Alliance

Society

Anonymous Bill & Robin Center, Camp Lotus

Bob Johnston California Trout Eastern Sierra Program

Calvert Investments

Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation Chatten-Brown &

Carstens Christine Rozance

Community Action Partners Defenders of Wildlife

Donner Summit Area Association

Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) **Ebbetts Pass Forest**

Watch

El Dorado County Water Agency **Environment Now**

Environmental Science Associates

Friends of Hope Valley Friends of the Inyo

Friends of the North Fork

Friends of the West Shore

Integrated Environmental Restoration

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power MACTEC

Mariposans for the Environment and

Responsible Metropolitan Water

District of Southern CA Mono Lake Committee

Mountain Area Preservation Foundation Pacific Gas & Electric

Patty Glaser & Sam Mudie

Roger Pratt, Edward Jones

Shute Mihaly & Weinberger LLP Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Coalition



EVENT SPONSORS cont.

Sierra Club Maidu Group

Sierra Watch

Sorensen's Resort

South Yuba River Citizens League

Stan & Carl Weidert Biologicals

The Sierra Fund

Tuolumne County Land Trust

Tuolumne River Trust

Vicky Hoover

Wilderness Education Program, Lake Tahoe Community College

FISCAL SPONSOR GROUPS

Foothills Water Network

Friends of Burke Creek

Friends of the West Shore

Lake Spirits

Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition

North Tahoe **Development Watch**

Save Round Valley Alliance Squaw Valley

Gateway Community **Tulare County** Citizens for Responsible Growth

State grant funding was frozen last December, these gracious individuals and groups helped us bridge the gap with no-

When our

John & Patty Brissenden Michael & Judy Funk Fund

interest or low-

interest loans.

Sarah Forslund Fund The Sierra Fund **Bob Johnston**

Thank You!

ALLIANCE BOARD MEMBERS

Sudeep Chandra Jan Chatten-Brown Jenny Cooper Tracy Grubbs Addie Jacobson **Bob Johnston** Terry McLaughlin Roger Pratt Pete Pumphrey Betsy Reifsnider Steve Robinson Christine Rozance Lynn Sadler

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JDelso Photography Rick Knepp Photography Marion Gee

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,

Brian White / White's Graphics

Dave Davis

Grass Roots

Lake Tahoe Community College

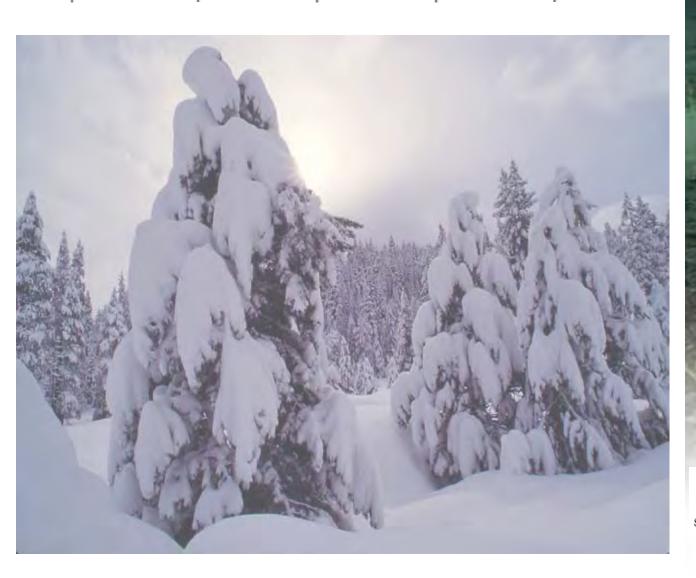
Microsoft

Patagonia@Heavenly

Randy Barrow

Tallac Brewing

And everyone who donates items for our auctions!







Fiscal Year 2008/2009

BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 2009

ASSETS

Cash	\$	288,939
Accounts Receivable	\$	907,460
Property & Equipment	\$	14,741
Restricted Cash	\$	67,733
Restricted Cash	Ψ	07,733

TOTAL ASSETS \$1,278,873

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 79,675
Note Payable	\$ 32,022
Fiscal Sponsor Funds	\$ 1,940
Accounts Payable/Accrued Expenses	\$ 45,713

TOTAL NET ASSETS	¢1	199 198
Net Assets - Temporarily Restricted	\$	919,762
Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$	279,436

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$1,278,873

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Board of Directors	\$ 18,915
Contributions ²	S265,945
Conference & Events	\$ 40,523
Grants (Government & Private)	\$ 698,204
In-Kind	\$ 247,510
Member Groups	\$ 9,100
Interest & Fiscal Sponsorship	\$ 25,478
Other	\$ 15,039

TOTAL REVENUE \$1,305,675

EXPENSES

XPENSES		
Admin. Personnel	\$ 75,792	
Conference & Facilities	\$ 50,870	
Fundraising	\$ 62,769	
Office Expenses	\$ 16,446	
Program Consultants	\$ 39,844	
Program Expenses	\$ 97,143	
Program Personnel	\$ 454,793	
Program Regranting	\$ 75,824	
Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership	\$ 636,893	

TOTAL EXPENSES 3 \$1,510,374

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.
- ² Contributions includes \$163,500 of restricted AmeriCorp Site Partner cash match
- ³ Expenses in excess of revenue were paid by grants received in prior years and committed to this fiscal year.



PO Box 7989 South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158 530.542.4546

info@sierranevadaalliance.org www.sierranevadaalliance.org

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Grants 53%

Contributions 20%

In-Kind 19%

Conference & Events 3%

Interest & Fiscal Sponsorship 2%

■ Board of Directors 1%

Member Groups 1%

Other 1%

EXPENSES

AmeriCorps 42%

Program Personnel 30%

Program Expenses 6%

Program Regranting 5%

Admin. Personnel 5%

Fundraising 4%

Conference & Facilities 3%

Program Consultants 3%

Office Expenses 1%



