

SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2010-2011



The Sierra Nevada Alliance's 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.

"The Sierra Nevada Alliance is a critical organization for leading resource protection efforts for the Sierra, a precious region of California."

-John Laird, California Natural Resources Secretary

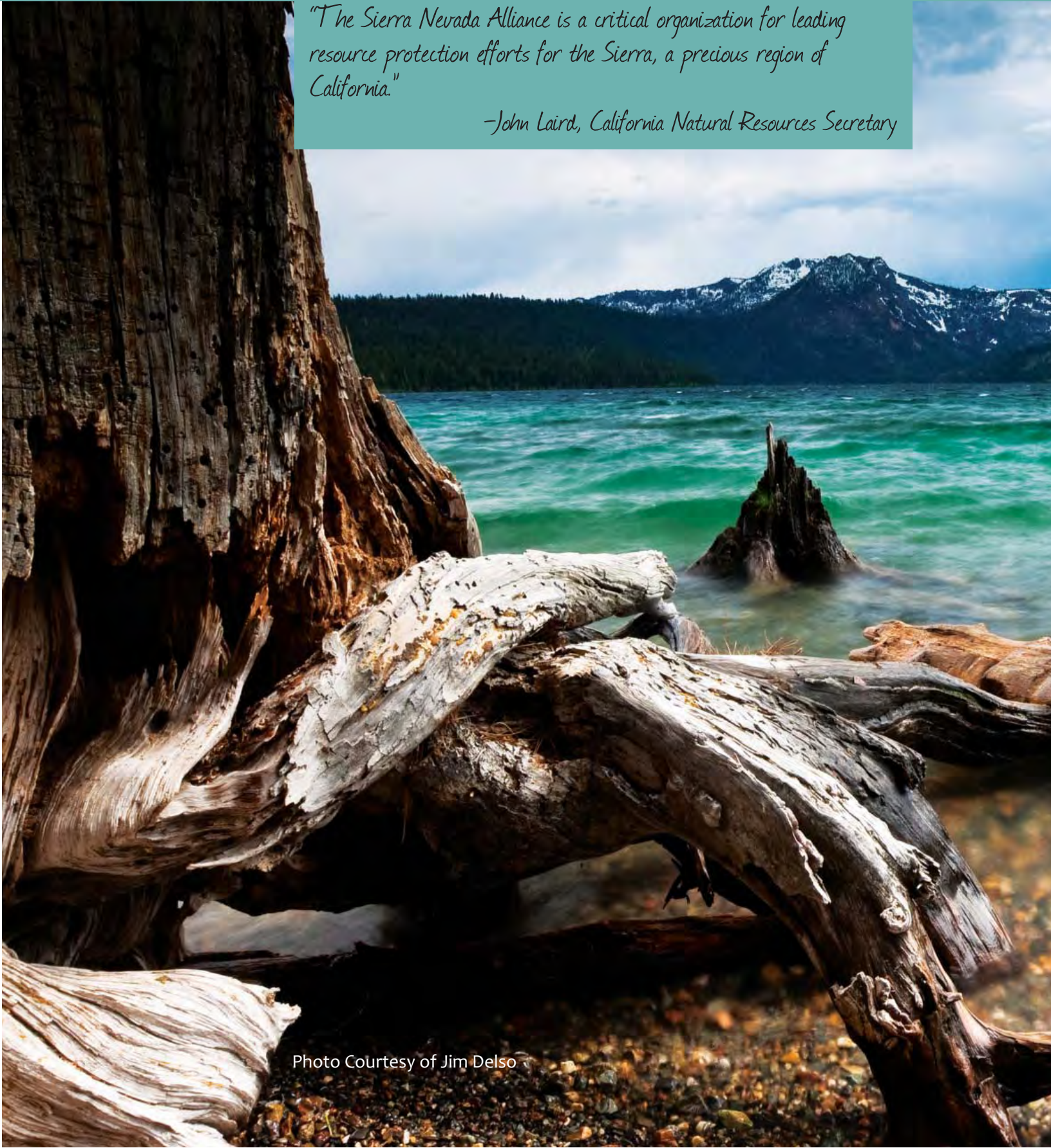


Photo Courtesy of Jim Delso

Annual Report - July 2010 thru June 2011



As the Sierra Nevada Alliance enters our 18th year, we continue to pioneer strategies that protect the people, wildlife and landscapes of the Sierra Nevada. The Alliance does this by helping our grassroots network of over 85 Member Groups build their capacity to protect all the Sierra's special places and attributes, and by leading innovative efforts that are models we can expand throughout the region.

In the face of invasive species, changing climate and increased encroachment on wild places – the Sierra Nevada Alliance truly keeps light in the range, showcasing successful efforts that meet these challenges and championing protections and restoration for the entire mountain range.

From July 2010 through June 2011, the Alliance has won critical victories and advanced efforts to protect and restore the Sierra Nevada. The following Annual Report highlights our major accomplishments.

The Sustainable Sierra Communities Program fosters and supports ambitious local actions and planning that advance resilient and thriving Sierra communities for the long term. Through on-the-ground projects, innovative programs, informative publications and inspiring workshops, the program empowers and catalyzes local actions across the entire Sierra for a sustainable future.

This year, the program identified dozens of innovative sustainability efforts and tracked seven different community sustainability models taking place in the region. After securing an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer,



"The Sierra Nevada Alliance networks organizations, attorneys and scientists together to create a powerful team achieving more for the Sierra than any one expert could do alone."

-Jan Chatten-Brown, Chatten-Brown & Carstens

Garden program to protect our communities and habitats. With our community partners, the Alliance successfully concluded four model outreach programs, completing consultations for 140 homeowners and distributing over 300 Yard & Garden guides. This program designed home landscapes that are not only beautiful, but which use native plants, prevent water pollution, better protect homes from wildfire and help local wildlife thrive. To compliment this we also completed a community-wide assessment and report with our consultants and partners in Mariposa that evaluated the social and economic benefits of the watershed approach to natural resource management. This report illustrated how to integrate the social and economic needs of the Sierra with the need to restore and perpetuate our vibrant Sierra ecosystems.

Finally, we continued the good work on our Truckee River Friendly Landscaping effort, developing a neighborhood approach to protecting our local rivers and streams by doing Sierra friendly landscaping. This year alone, we educated hundreds of homeowners on how their

landscaping makes a difference for the river they love – doing outreach, consulting and providing detailed advice to improve their yard. This project will be a great resource for designing other projects around the entire Sierra so all communities are Sierra friendly.

The Regional Climate Change Program engages and supports regional efforts to adopt exemplary sustainable regional plans throughout the Sierra Nevada. Exemplary plans protect and restore Sierra water, lands, wildlife and rural communities while acting to adapt to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This fiscal year, we released the 3rd Edition of our acclaimed Sierra Climate Change Toolkit, an innovative guide with tips on how our grassroots leaders, agency partners and elected officials in the Sierra can lead the way in curbing climate change and

we designed a cutting-edge new model sustainability project that will help homeowners save money and protect their families' health from the serious threats of radon, lead and mold. When tested, 58% of Sierra homes rated high for radon, the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. The new program will help residents not only upgrade their homes to safeguard their families from this threat, but at the same time "tune up" their homes to save energy and water, thereby also reducing the greenhouse gases leading to climate change. These changes will help curb carbon and better prepare the Sierra to survive climate change.

The program also completed the first stage of our impressive Sierra Yard &



The Alliance works to protect the Sierra for future generations.



The Alliance is leading a campaign to address climate change that will protect wildlife in the Sierra, such as the Pika.

ensuring resilient communities and landscapes in the Sierra. The program also founded the first Sierra Community Organizer Academy with 25 activists attending to learn effective campaigning. Our grassroots base is more important than ever in leading strategic efforts across the Sierra, and this training ensures they have the best strategies and tactics to protect the Sierra for the future. And to top off our efforts to strengthen environmental restoration and protection throughout the range, we organized a Sierra Meadow Forum in June 2011 with the National Fish and Wildlife

Foundation, sharing cutting-edge strategies to restore the important meadow ecosystems of the region.

We also continued with our efforts to get model resource plans established, helping Tulare and Plumas County smart growth advocates build diverse coalitions to champion strong County General Plans, protecting our wild places, historic agriculture and rural quality of life. We built our partners' capacity in the Eastern Sierra to do smart water planning and in Tahoe to do a cutting-edge Climate Plan, helping efforts to raise needed funds, evaluate governance structures and kick off collaborative processes. The Alliance hopes to have effective plans that protect the environment and our communities in place within the next year that will be models for reducing greenhouse gases.

The Member Group Support Program assists our network of over 85 Member Groups, advancing their efforts to protect all the Sierra's special places. A major project of this program is our Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP), which assesses and restores impaired watershed habitats and increases community stewardship of the Sierra Nevada watersheds through education and volunteerism.

Alliance staff ensured the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership continued to excel in getting important things done for the Sierra while

expanding the capacity of conservation groups in the Sierra and training the next generation of conservation leaders. The 2010 SNAP program exceeded the program's calendar year expectations, completing 237 acres of habitat restoration, educating over 11,688 students and community members on important Sierra conservation issues and recruiting and mobilizing over 2,000 volunteers to protect and restore Sierra lakes, rivers, lands and wildlife. Partnering groups who benefit by the service of the members continue to rave about the support it provides them to fulfill their missions.

The Alliance kicked off the 2011 SNAP program year well, receiving over 270 applications for the 27 positions and training the new members to work with site partners for another year. Already by June 2011,



"The Sierra Nevada Alliance doesn't just highlight problems in the Sierra, they are leaders in advancing solutions for our communities, wildlife and future generations."

-Jim Branham, Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Annual Report - July 2010 thru June 2011

the new member class have restored over 644 acres, educated over 10,025 students and community members and mobilized over 1,700 volunteers.

The Member Group Support Program also had another successful Annual Conference in 2010. One hundred fifty people attended the event at Lake Tahoe Community College in August 2010, which offered informative workshops, legal information and inspiring keynote speakers, such as Craig Thomas of the National Wildlife Federation.

The Sustainable Organization Program supports the organization to achieve our programmatic goals detailed above. This program has four key areas: Administration, Fundraising, Communication/Marketing and Personnel Management. Despite the continued economic challenges our country faces, the Alliance met our fundraising goals, improved our internal administrative systems and balanced our budget. Thanks to our individual donors, Member Groups, foundation supporters and state and federal grants, we were able to maintain our inspiration and achieve all our programmatic goals as noted throughout the report.

Grand Summary: 2011 was another successful year for the Sierra Nevada Alliance, building on our accomplishments of each previous year. Through the generosity of our supporters, we have pioneered model projects, provided inspiration and support to a powerful network of 85 conservation groups and succeeded in creating on-the-ground improvements that benefit the Sierra today and that will benefit future generations to come. Together our donors, staff, board and Member Groups are keeping light in the range.





"Sierra Nevada Alliance's support plays a strong role in boosting High Sierra Rural Alliance morale and keeping us viable in the long run."

-Stevee Duber, Project Manager, High Sierra Rural Alliance

Photo Courtesy of Laurie Schwaller

Friends of the Sierra Nevada Alliance

The Alliance would like to thank everyone who donated during 2010 - 2011

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- **The Wyss Foundation**

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American Rivers
Bear Creek Watershed Group
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California Oaks
California Save our Streams Council
California Trout - Eastern Sierra Program
California Trout - Northern Sierra Program
California Urban Streams Alliance
Center for River Restoration and Research
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation
Cherokee Watershed Alliance
Community Action Project
Defenders of Wildlife
Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT)
Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch
Echo Lakes Environment Fund
The Environmental Consumer
FoCuS - Foothill Collaborative for Sustainability
Foothill Conservancy
Foothills Water Network
Forest Issues Group
Foresthill Residents for Responsible Growth
Friends of Hope Valley
Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain

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 Tahoe Water Trail
League to Save Lake Tahoe
Local Water Stays Local
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Mountain Meadows Conservancy
North Fork American River Alliance
North Tahoe Development Watch
Pacific Rivers Council
Placer Land Trust
Planning and Conservation League
Plumas Tomorrow
Restore Hetch Hetchy



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Revive the San Joaquin
Rural Quality Foundation
San Joaquin Valley Leadership Forum
Save Van Norden Meadow
Sequoia Forestkeeper
Shasta Land Trust
Sierra and 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 Streams Institute
Sierra Watch
Snowlands Network
South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)
SRVA Advocates for Smart Growth

Sugar Pine Foundation
Sustainable Tahoe
Tahoe Baikal Institute (TBI)
Tahoe Institute for Natural Science
The Sierra Fund
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The Alliance trains youth today to be leaders for the Sierra tomorrow - SNAP members 2011.

"The Sierra Nevada Alliance delivers important safeguards for the Sierra's climate, water and rural character."

-John & Patty Brissenden, Sorensen's Resort

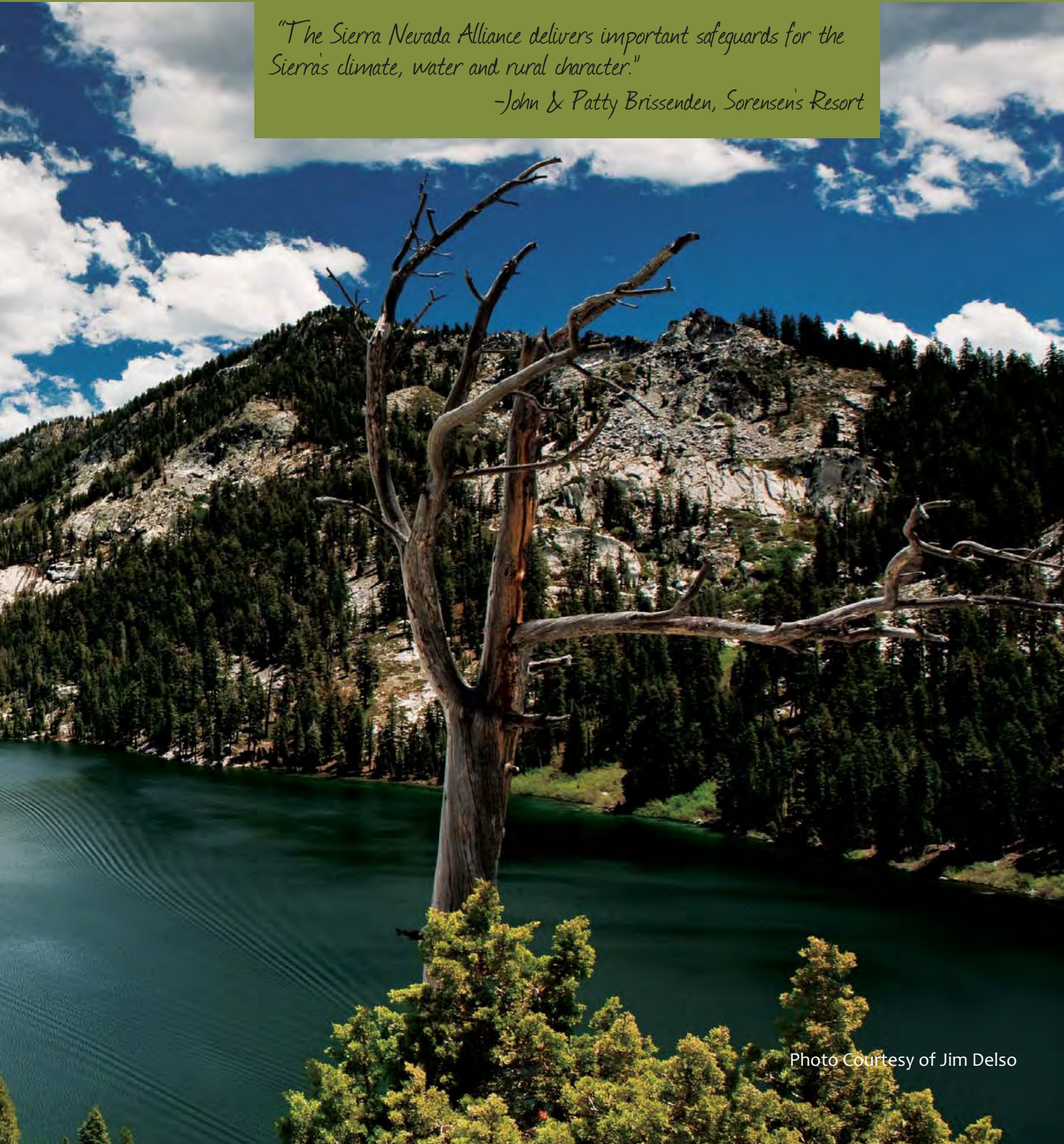


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Sarah Ford, Volunteer
Soroptimist Club International of South Lake Tahoe, Volunteer
Stacey Hamburg, Intern
TraeLynn Ramsey-Neal, Intern

Artwork usage courtesy of...

Carrie Reiter
Jim Delso
Joan Clayburgh
John Muir Laws
Kay Ogden
Tim Palmer
Laurie Schwaller
Marion Gee
Morgan Fessler
TraeLynn Ramsey-Neal

Board Members

Addie Jacobson
Betsy Reifsnider
Christine Rozance
Ian N. Herdell
Jan Chatten-Brown
Jenny Cooper
Leah Wills
Lynn Sadler
Pete Pumphrey
Robert Johnston
Steve Robinson
Sudeep Chandra
Terry Manning
Terry McLaughlin
Tracy Grubbs

*"I went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out until sundown,
for going out, I found, was really going in."*

-John Muir

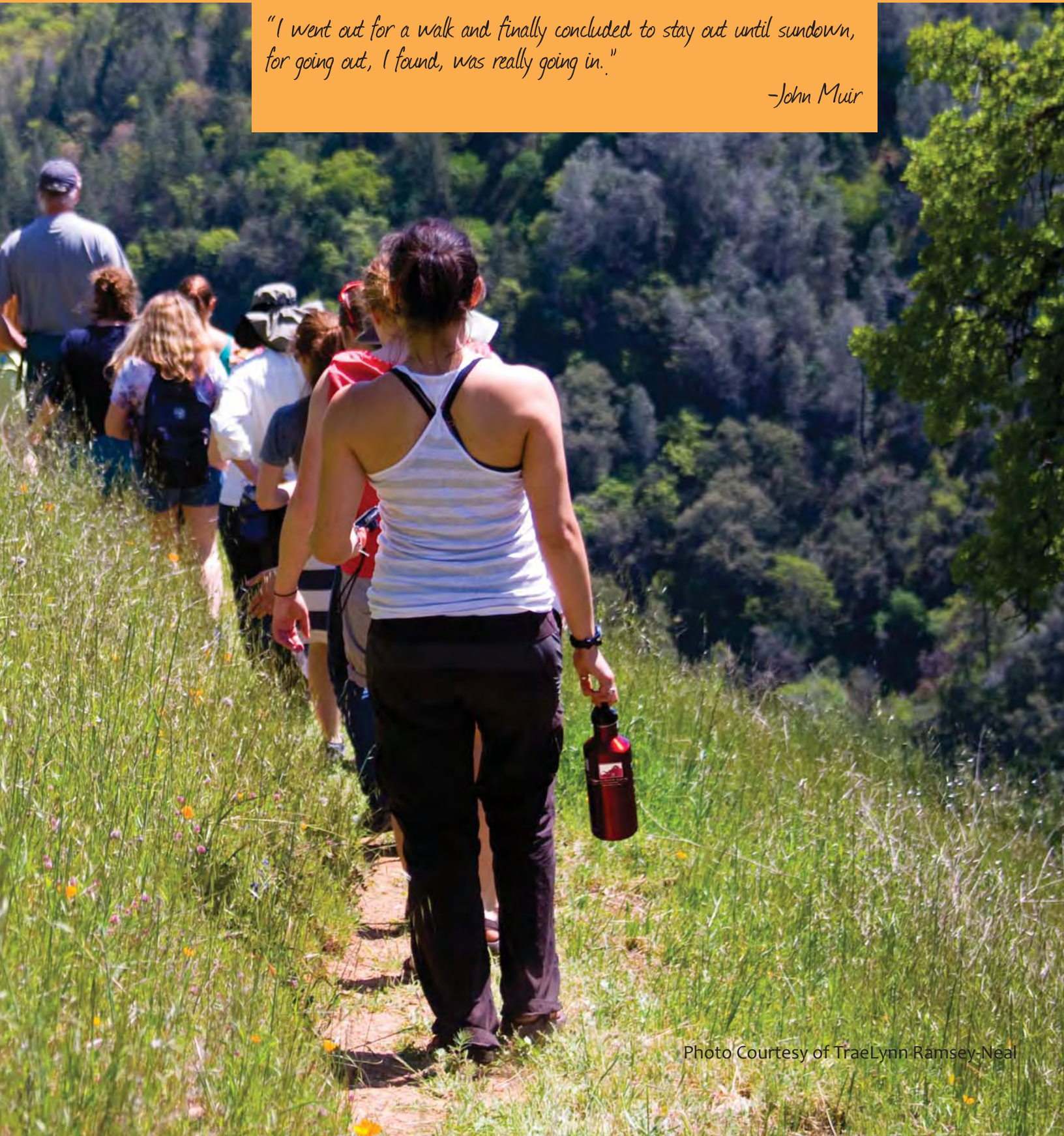


Photo Courtesy of TraeLynn Ramsey-Neal

Fiscal Year 2010 - 2011

Balance Sheet

June 30th, 2011

Assets

Cash	\$	280,327
Accounts Receivable	\$	306,629
Property and Equipment	\$	3,635
Restricted Cash	\$	70,720
Prepaid Other	\$	23,383
Total Assets	\$	684,694

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$	64,017
Deferred Revenue	\$	193,144
Total Liabilities	\$	257,161

Temporarily Restricted	\$	242,235
Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$	185,298

Temporarily Restricted & Net Assets \$ **427,533**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ **684,694**

Support & Revenue

Board of Directors	1.0%
Conference and Events	3.5%
Contributions	6.0%
Grants	71.0%
Interest and Fiscal Sponsorships	7.0%
In-Kind	11.0%
Member Groups	0.5%

Financial Statement

July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

Support and Revenue

Board of Directors	\$	10,760
Conference and Events	\$	55,890
Contributions	\$	70,707
Fiscal Sponsorships	\$	109,561
Grants	\$	1,192,688
In-Kind	\$	196,240
Member Groups	\$	9,386
Sales	\$	801
Total Revenue	\$	1,646,033

Expenses

Personnel and Benefits	\$	402,512
Conference and Facilities	\$	32,686
Consultants & Sub Contractors	\$	194,565
Fiscal Sponsors	\$	149,730
In-Kind	\$	65,681
Operating	\$	94,337
Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership	\$	748,548
Travel	\$	13,225
Total Expenses	\$	1,701,284

Expenses by Program

Lobbying	0.3%
Member Group Support	53.7%
Regional Climate Change	16.0%
Sustainable Organization	18.0%
*Administration	8%
*Fundraising	6%
*Outreach	4%
Sustainable Sierra Communities	12.0%



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 7989
 South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158
 530.543.4546
 info@sierranevadaalliance.org
 www.sierranevadaalliance.org