

# SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Annual Report • Fiscal Year 2011-2012



*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.*



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

*Keeping light in the range.*





*“One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself,  
‘What if I had never seen this before? What if I  
knew I would never see it again.’ ”*

— Rachel Carson

Photo courtesy of [jdelsofphotography.com](http://jdelsofphotography.com)

## Making Our Vision a Reality

In 2011-2012, the Sierra Nevada Alliance’s programs have moved our region closer to our vision of benefiting both natural and human communities.

Our waters are cleaner, our forests and ecosystems are healthier. Our wilderness and wild areas remain remote, untrammled and untamed. Our wildlife is still diverse and self-sustaining. Our communities are still mostly rural and more sustainable than in the past. While there remains a lifetime of work ahead to continue protecting, restoring and sustaining our Range of Light, we take this moment to celebrate the significant progress we’ve made in 2011-2012.

## Supporting Conservation Groups is the Heart of our Strategy

The Sierra Nevada Alliance had the largest network of conservation groups in the region in 2011-2012. Building these groups’ capacity to protect our special places is at the heart of our strategies for restoring and protecting the entire Sierra.

No one is more intimately linked to the lands and waters of the region than the local residents who have lived in and visited these special places for decades. Our Member Group program boasted ninety-one groups as members and hosted our second annual Grassroots Organizing Academy, which provided effective strategies and tools to defend and protect the Sierra’s unique and rural landscapes and communities.

## Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Members Excelled at “Getting Things Done”

Also during this last fiscal year, the Sierra Nevada Alliance had the only AmeriCorps program in the Sierra Nevada, educating and training the next generation of conservation leaders in watershed restoration, monitoring and land conservation. The Alliance sees empowering young conservation leaders as a primary strategy for conserving



some of the largest intact natural areas both in the heart of the Sierra and in far-flung places such as Springville, Shasta, and Bishop.

The 2011 SNAP (Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership) members restored 1,501 acres, educated 15,085 people, raised \$53,449 for their projects, and recruited and supported 3,743 volunteers during the course of the calendar year.

SNAP's motto is to "Get things Done," and we're pleased that this year we received a federal award to continue the SNAP program for three more years through 2015! It's thrilling to see just how much does get done for the Sierra thanks to our AmeriCorps members' dedication and service.

## Annual Conference Brought Environmental Leaders Together

Conservation in the region is not achieved only by SNAP members, but by hundreds of individuals and groups across the entire Sierra. Once again in 2011, we held the "best conservation conference" in the region, bringing together our diverse network of leaders. The event boasted over 180 participants, great reviews, a successful series of sustainability-focused speakers and workshops, and Member Groups sharing a wealth of victories and challenges. Nothing inspires and informs conservation with such passion, real tools, and innovative information as the Alliance's annual conference.

## Tackling Climate Change: A Compelling Conservation Effort

By any measure, the preservation of the Sierra Nevada's diverse foothill and alpine landscapes in the face of climate change is one of the most compelling conservation efforts of our time and an innovative model for the 21st century. Our Regional Climate Change Program engages and supports efforts to adopt exemplary, sustainable regional plans across the Sierra. Exemplary sustainable regional plans work to protect and restore Sierra waters, lands, wildlife and rural communities and incorporate climate change adaptation principles, while meeting or exceeding the most aggressive statewide or national greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction legislation.

Working with a coalition of local conservation groups, agricultural interests and environmental justice groups, the Alliance's role as a campaign leader was instrumental in helping challenge the Tulare County Board of Supervisors' plan to sprawl over their agricultural lands and abandon their civic centers. Alliance staff helped locals team with Stanford Environmental Law Clinic to try to uphold state standards on environmental planning and build broader support to keep

Tulare County rural. In addition to working on county land use planning in Tulare County, we partnered with conservation leaders in Plumas and Sierra counties to also champion keeping their open spaces open and revitalizing historic town centers.

The Alliance's Regional Climate Change program also recognizes that not only must we protect landscapes, but also the rivers, lakes and streams that are the lifeblood of this biologically-rich region. To achieve this, we have focused on integrating water management in order to address water quality, water supply and ecosystem health while addressing climate change.

We brought nearly two decades of experience working together with diverse water stakeholders to our efforts to protect our thriving rivers, lakes and streams while sustaining a high-quality water supply for our communities. We employed our organizing acumen to facilitate the Sierra Water Work Group. This year, we hosted the first-ever Sierra Water Work Group Summit, which proved so popular with the tribes, water agencies, water attorneys, state agencies and conservation leaders who attended that they insisted it become an annual event.

## Innovative Strategies to Achieve Sustainable Sierra Communities

One of the most effective Alliance programs is our Sustainable Sierra Communities Program. Its mission is to foster and support local actions and planning that establish building blocks for more resilient, thriving communities. Through on-the-ground projects, innovative programs, publications, workshops and events, it empowers local action for a sustainable future.

Our Truckee River Friendly Landscaping pilot project in Truckee is nearing our goal of having

100 on-the-ground landscape projects implemented by homeowners to reduce pollution entering the Truckee River. This year, Alliance staff joined the Truckee River Watershed Council in not only completing distribution of 1500 of our Sierra Yard and Garden guides, but also hosting an innovative competition showcasing our Truckee River Friendly Landscaping projects. This work will demonstrate to neighboring communities around the region how to apply proven strategies that protect our rivers and lakes while creating beautiful low-maintenance yards.

But sustainability is not just for the great outdoors – this year we launched EmPower El Dorado in South Lake Tahoe to bring smart actions indoors. This project demonstrates how mountain homes can save energy, conserve water, save



Photos courtesy of [jdelsofphotography.com](http://jdelsofphotography.com) and Traelynn Neal.



homeowners money, and protect families from cancer-causing radon, poisonous lead and immune-suppressing mold. We partnered with energy and water utilities, the local hospital, city government, children's advocates and our local conservation partners to launch this effort.

The cornerstone of this approach is attracting people to become better stewards of the environment while simultaneously addressing their economic and health needs. Sustainability is all about blending environmental, economic and social justice solutions. We plan to use the lessons learned from this pilot program in neighboring Sierra communities to move our region into the sustainable future we desire.

## A Vision For the Sierra's Future

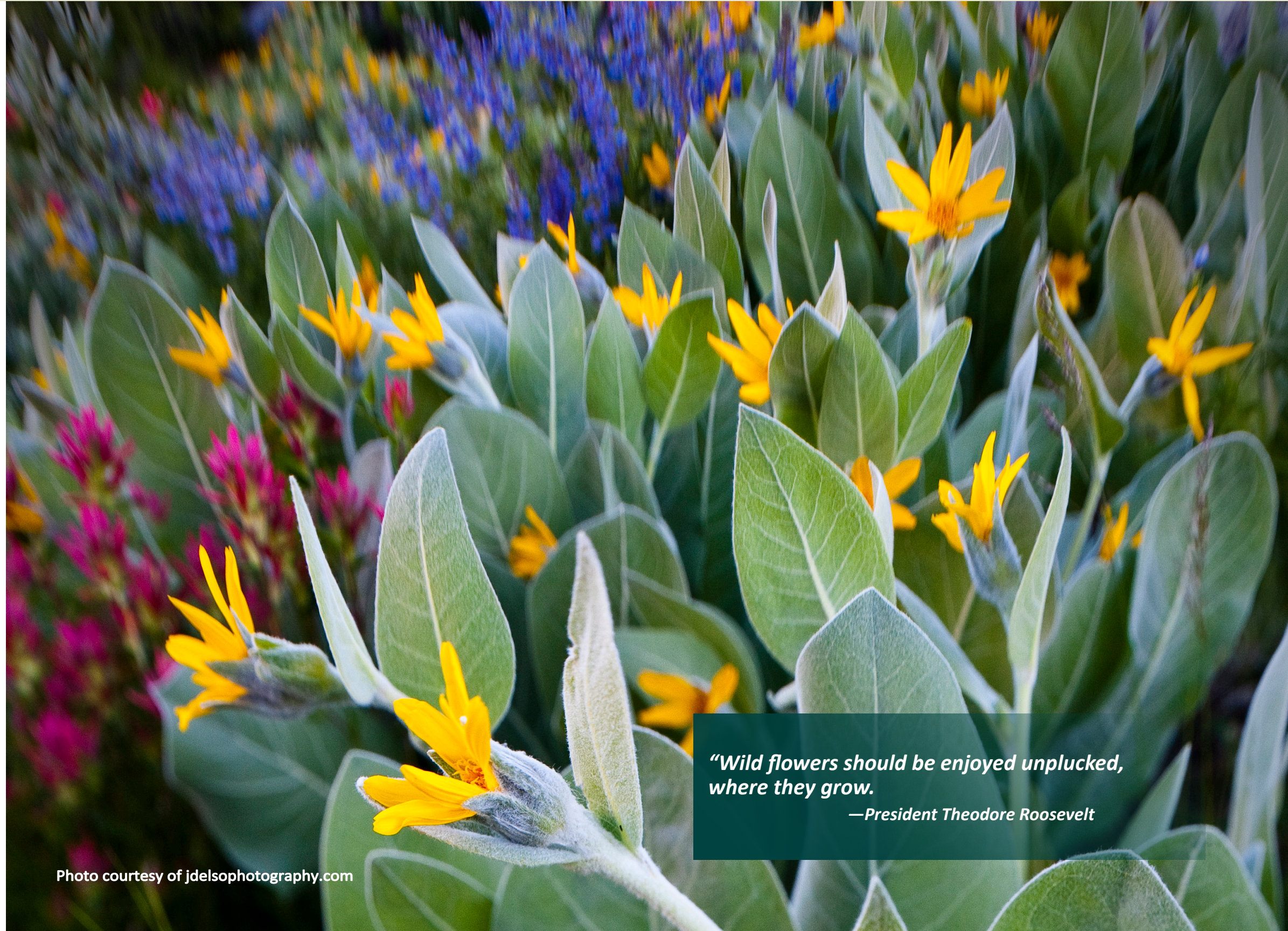
While it's great to celebrate our achievements, there remains much more to be done. All of our Sierra rivers have stretches that are impaired. The majority of our region's most biologically-diverse foothills face the prospect of unchecked development. Our wildlife and habitat are severely challenged from growth and climate change pressures. Many of our rural communities are faced with poor decision-making every day.

Our vision for the Sierra is one that has our wildlife flourishing, our communities a model for vibrant sustainability, and our economy based on environmental and social justice principles. We are working to protect the integrity of our renowned watersheds and one of the most vital large-scale habitats in the nation.

Our work prevents individual groups from having to re-create the wheel. It stops one group achieving a victory for their community only to see it unraveled by devastation in the larger ecosystem it is a part of. The Sierra Nevada Alliance is the premier Sierra conservation organization and the key to our past success and to our future is that we make advances together! We are the Sierra Nevada Alliance – an alliance dedicated to keeping light in the range.



Joan Clayburgh,  
Executive Director



*“Wild flowers should be enjoyed unplucked,  
where they grow.”*

*—President Theodore Roosevelt*

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The Alliance would like to thank everyone who donated during 2011 - 2012

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# Friends of the Sierra Nevada Alliance

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## Member Groups (Continued)

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Friends of Hope Valley

Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain

Friends of Mariposa Creek

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

Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government (MERG)

Mono Lake Committee

Moonlight Valley Alliance

Mountain Area Preservation Foundation

Mountain Meadows Conservancy

North Fork American River Alliance

Pacific Rivers Council

Placer Land Trust

Planning and Conservation League

Plumas Tomorrow

Restore Hetch Hetchy

Rural Quality Foundation  
San Joaquin Valley Leadership Forum

Save Round Valley Alliance

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

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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

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SNAP Members Training 2012.

*"No matter how sophisticated you may be, a large granite mountain cannot be denied — it speaks in silence to the very core of your being."*

*—Ansel Adams*

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*"I never saw a discontented tree. They grip the ground as though they liked it."*

—John Muir

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Traelynn Neal  
Nel's Tahoe Hardware & Garden Center  
North Coast Driftwood  
Oakstone Winery  
Overland Meat  
Patagonia  
Perry Creek Winery  
Quyle Kilns  
Steve & Judy Robinson  
Lynn Sadler  
Sardine Lake Resort  
Session Salons  
Sierra Ski & Cycle Works  
Sierra-at-Tahoe  
Skyline Eco Adventures  
Sorenson's Resort  
SOTAR  
Specialty Sports Venture LLC  
Starbucks  
Tahoe Adventure Company  
Tahoe Best Friends

Tahoe Lakeshore Lodge  
Tahoe Rental Connection  
The Living Seed Company  
The Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort  
Thriller Press  
Wilbur Hot Springs  
Steve Wilensky

## Fiscal Sponsor Groups

Bear Creek Watershed Group  
The Environmental Consumer Foothills Water Network  
Friends of the West Shore  
Lake Tahoe Water Trail  
Local Water Stays Local  
Small World  
SRVA Advocates for Smart Growth  
Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth

## SNAP Partners

American River Conservancy (Coloma)  
American Rivers (Nevada City)  
Bear Yuba Land Trust (Grass Valley)  
Eastern Sierra Land Trust (Bishop)  
El Dorado and Georgetown Divide RCD (Coloma / Placerville)  
Placer Land Trust (Auburn)  
Sequoia Riverlands Trust (Visalia)  
Shasta Land Trust (Redding)  
Sierra Foothill Conservancy (Prather)  
Sierra Streams Institute (Nevada City)  
South Yuba River Citizens League (Nevada City)  
Tahoe Baikol Institute (South Lake Tahoe)  
Tahoe Resource Conservation District (South Lake Tahoe)  
UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (Tahoe City)  
WildPlaces (Springville)

## Alliance Staff & Consultants

Allison Peeler / SNAP Regional Coordinator  
Christa Cassidy / Sustainable Sierra Communities Program Assistant / VISTA  
Craig Breon / Regional Climate Change Program Director  
Dan Keenan / Sustainable Sierra Communities Program Manager  
Evan Muchmore / Sustainable Sierra Communities Program Assistant & AmeriCorps/VISTA Member  
Gavin Feiger / Regional Climate Change Program Associate/ Wyss Fellow  
Joan Clayburgh / Executive Director  
Joann Eisenbrandt / Administrative Manager  
Karen Hodges / Bookkeeper, Consultant  
Kay Ogden / Associate Director  
Kelly Miller / Sustainable Sierra Communities Program Assistant/ AmeriCorps Member  
Lynn Baumgartner / Outreach & Development Program Associate  
Marion Gee / Interim Regional Climate Change Program Director  
Matt Griffis / Regional Climate Change Program Associate/ Wyss Fellow  
Megan Suarez-Brand / Sustainable Sierra Communities Program Director  
Morgan Fessler / SNAP Program Director  
Reyna Yagi / AmeriCorps, Sustainable Sierra Communities Program Assistant  
Rich McIntyre / Campaigns Director, Consultant  
Tony Passantino / Sustainable Sierra Communities Program Assistant/AmeriCorps Member

## Interns & Volunteers

Brian Srachan, Volunteer  
Carissa Gospodinoff, Intern  
Carlo Luri, Volunteer  
Christine Orlowski, Intern  
Cindy Archer, Volunteer  
Courtney Walker, Volunteer  
Evan Muchmore, Intern  
Jeanne Lear, Volunteer  
Jenny Low, Intern  
Julie Fair, Intern  
Kaitlin Meese, Intern  
Katie Riley, Volunteer  
Lauren O'Neil, Intern  
Natalie Coyne, Intern  
Neil Favor, Intern  
Russ Dahl, Volunteer  
Taylor Fargo, Intern  
Traelynn 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 Neal

## Board Members

Addie Jacobson  
Betsy Reifsnider  
Christine Rozance  
David Hansen  
Geoff McQuilkin  
Ian N. Herdell  
John Friedrich  
Leah Wills  
Lynn Sadler  
Pam Flick  
Richard Taylor  
Robert Johnston  
Sam Mudie  
Terry Manning



# Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012

## Balance Sheet

### June 30th, 2012

#### Assets

Cash	\$	69,536
Accounts Receivable	\$	137,026
Restricted Cash	\$	246,812
Prepaid Other	\$	20,525
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>473,899</b>

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$	18,342
Vacation Payable	\$	16,407
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>34,749</b>

Temporarily Restricted	\$	242,605
Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$	196,545

<b>Temporarily Restricted &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>439,150</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>473,899</b>

#### Financial Statement

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

#### Support and Revenue

Board of Directors	\$	24,375
Conference and Events	\$	40,844
Contributions	\$	60,192
Fiscal Sponsorships	\$	151,723
Grants	\$	1,097,566
In-Kind	\$	106,927
Member Groups	\$	12,045
Sales	\$	1,425
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,495,097</b>

#### Expenses

Personnel and Benefits	\$	481,563
Conference and Facilities	\$	40,206
Consultants & Sub Contractors	\$	114,905
Fiscal Sponsors	\$	132,248
In-Kind	\$	106,927
Operating	\$	107,407
Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership	\$	477,941
Travel	\$	22,653
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,483,850</b>

#### Support & Revenue

Board of Directors	0.50%
Conference and Events	3.00%
Contributions	4.00%
Grants	73.00%
Fiscal Sponsorships	11.00%
In-Kind	8.00%
Member Groups	0.50%

#### Expenses by Program

Lobbying	0.02%
Member Group Support	56.67%
Regional Climate Change	19.72%
Sustainable Organization	20.44%
*Administration	5.79%
*Fundraising	3.32%
*Outreach	11.33%
Sustainable Sierra Communities	3.15%



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