

2020 - 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo by Ian Liberry on Unsplash





Greetings Friends,

As our team enters the new year, I took some time to reflect on all we've accomplished in the 2020 - 2021 season. And when I say we, I mean our staff, volunteers, board members, partners, and generous supporters. Thank you for banding together and building a resilient Sierra Nevada in the face of climate change and explosive wildfire.

The Alliance works to empower and elevate the conservation community throughout the Sierra. We hosted our first virtual conference and provided a new platform for Sierra stewards to gather together, learn from experts in the field, make connections and plan collaborative efforts to protect the future of the Sierra.

We boldly examined our internal workings and approaches related to justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. We hosted training in this area for our staff, our Member Groups, and the general public. This year, we're working to secure additional resources to provide a broader platform for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color's voices to be heard.

Capacity building is the name of the game here at the Alliance. Our Climate Resiliency Program expanded climate action capacity for the City of South Lake Tahoe (the largest City in the Sierra) and was instrumental in developing their Climate Action Plan. Our AmeriCorps and Sierra Corps Forestry Fellowship program continued to bolster stewardship efforts for dozens of conservation partner organizations across the range. Restoring and monitoring thousands of acres, bringing in millions of new project dollars, and developing and leading volunteer efforts throughout the region - I couldn't be more proud.

While I am incredibly pleased with last year's work, I admit we had a few challenges. For an organization whose work is strongly based on in-person efforts, the pandemic brought a host of new challenges. We pivoted quickly and adapted our on-the-ground work to be COVID-safe and we continue to look critically and make improvements. We continued to offer our monthly webinars, improved our internal efficiencies, and made dedicated efforts to hire true experts in the field.

This is just a snapshot of what's inside of the rest of our annual report. Thank you to all that supported our mission to work side by side to build a healthy and resilient Sierra for future generations.

With gratitude,

Jenny Hatch
Executive Director

Staff Members

Jenny Hatch, *Executive Director*

Brooke Boeger, *Community Engagement Program Director*

Rachel Durben, *SNAP Program Director*

Alexis Hagar, *Education & Outreach Coordinator SNAP Member*

Nicole Lutkemuller, *Sierra Corps Forestry Program Director*

Jackson Realo, *Climate Program CivicSpark Fellow*

Jodi Schmitz, *Finance & Human Resources Director*

Board of Directors

Laura Beaton, *President*

Christ Wright, *Vice President*

Lynn Baumgartner, *Secretary*

Vacant, *Treasurer*

Julia Kim

Coleen Shade

Steve Smallcombe



Our Service Area

The Sierra Nevada is a mountain range that lies primarily in the state of California with the Carson Range spur expanding into Nevada. The Sierra runs 400 miles north to south, and 50 to 80 miles east to west. The Sierra houses General Sherman, the world's largest tree by volume; Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in North America; and Mount Whitney, the highest point in the lower 48 United States.



The Sierra is rich in natural resources. It produces 60% of California's water supply and supplies the state with 50% of its hydroelectric energy. Wildlife is abundant with 3500 plant, 572 animal, and 321 aquatic species. This is a big weight to bear, all while hosting 788,000 residents and 50 million annual visitors.



SIERRA NEVADA
— ALLIANCE —

Who we are

This region is at risk, and we're here leading the way to build resiliency in the face of climate change and explosive wildfire. Thank you for your support to join in and protect this precious area.

Mission

We are a hub for stewardship of the Sierra Nevada, which we achieve by empowering and collaborating with our partners.

Vision

Every Sierra ecosystem and community is healthy, resilient, and collectively cared for through thriving partnerships, as a legacy for future generations.



Path to Resilience

*It takes more than one to save the Sierra.
Let's walk this path together.*



33 MEMBER GROUPS



\$5.3 BILLION SECURED
FOR THE SIERRA



11
EDUCATIONAL
WEBINARS



7,400 WATERSHED
ACRES RESTORED



49,000 SNAP
MEMBER SERVICE
HOURS



20 SNAP HOST SITES



58 SNAP MEMBERS



1,000 SITES
MONITORED



13,500 INDIVIDUALS
EDUCATED



1,900
VOLUNTEERS
RECRUITED



2,000 ACRES OF
FOREST MONITORED



55,000 ACRES OF
PLANNED
RESTORATION



\$9 MILLION IN
FOREST HEALTH
FUNDING



5 SIERRA CORPS
FORESTRY FELLOWS

SNAP and Donor Highlight

Donors make it happen

Grace Anderson is a monthly Evergreen member



All of the Alliance's achievements over the past 29 years are only possible because of supporters like you. Grace Anderson is a 20-year member of the Alliance and values supporting on-the-ground work and seeing her dollars in action. The Alliance is more than one organization, it's a network of Member Groups, donors, and supporters committed to working together to make a difference in the Sierra.

About 10 years ago, Grace decided to become an Evergreen monthly donor. This plan comforts her by knowing that her membership is always current - and, no renewal notice is pretty nice too! It's important to Grace to provide consistent income to help protect the Sierra.

Grace's favorite memory of the Sierra is a winter ski trip to Gilmore Lake in Desolation Wilderness. She had a sweat tent made from ripstop fabric and insulated it with down bags and heated rocks, forming a sweat lodge. When everyone was nice and toasty, they raced through the snow and jumped in a nearby creek. Swimming in cold Sierra streams is how she feels truly alive.

You too can become an Evergreen monthly donor. Visit sierranevadaalliance.org/donate to contribute today.

Link to leadership

Nicole Cartwright continues her passion for preservation



We created our Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) program to give individuals new to the field of conservation the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive with real work experiences. Nothing is more satisfying than to watch former members flourish on their path to leadership.

After finishing college at Chico State, and working on the Big Island of Hawaii addressing invasive Yellow Jackets, Nicole Cartwright returned to California. Looking to build her skills and get in-depth experience in the field, she decided to join the first 2007 SNAP cohort and served with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD).

During her term, she created programs, curricula, and events and elevated her database skills. Upon completion, she was offered full-time employment with TRCD, developed the Lake Tahoe Watercraft Inspection Program, and eventually became the organization's executive director. After 15 years at TRCD, Nicole moved over to the California Department of Conservation as an Associate Environmental Planner. She continues to put quality, meaningful conservation projects on the ground on a broader scale.

Nicole loves camping, hiking, backpacking, biking, and kayaking in the Sierra. She enjoys sharing the outdoors with her son, family, and friends.

Program Achievements



Advocacy

to protect resources

Even with the Sierra's vast resources, it receives a disproportionate amount of funding and help to protect and preserve it. As active members of the Sierra Consortium, Sierra Climate Adaptation jennifer@sierranevadaalliance.org Watershed Network (to name a few), we participate in advocacy efforts on behalf of the Sierra Nevada and our Member Groups.

Together we secured:

- ▶ \$536 million in Early Action Wildfire Funding, including \$20 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- ▶ \$988 million for California wildfire resilience, a \$3.7 billion climate resilience package, and a \$25 million fund for new prescribed fire claims in the 2021-2022 state budget
- ▶ Policies to strategically implement forest health and wildfire resilience planning and implementation strategies
- ▶ Expanded prescribed fire and ecologically-based biomass utilization



Climate Action

to foster resilience

Alliance CivicSpark Fellows have built capacity for the City of South Lake Tahoe and other public agencies in Lake Tahoe and the surrounding area. Adopted in 2020, Fellows were instrumental in creating the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Following the CAP adoption, one Fellow assisted with conceptualizing the South Tahoe Zero Energy District. The project aimed to bring together seven local entities to achieve 100% local, renewable energy 24/7 for all participants. It positioned South Lake Tahoe as a leader in climate resilience work and set the stage for other cities in the Sierra to follow.

Community Engagement

to cultivate momentum

The Sierra Nevada Alliance works to protect and restore the Sierra Nevada by strengthening individual efforts and joining together as a region-wide force. The Alliance's success in creating a strong, connected Sierra depends on the support of Sierra organizations, agencies, businesses, and community members. We work to engage community members like you and provide resources, education, opportunities to network, and ways to take action to broaden our collective impact on behalf of the Sierra.

We hosted our biannual conservation conference in September: 2020 Vision for the Sierra Nevada. In the face of the pandemic, we adjusted our standard approach and offered a virtual event. Over 100 local, regional and national conservationists came together to discuss how to achieve resilient forests, the power of conservation storytelling, steps to build an effective stewardship marketing campaign, legislative updates, fundraising in times of COVID-19, and much more.

This was the year to practice patience and adaptation. And as the pandemic continued, we held our second virtual Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Tour in April 2021, in conjunction with Earth Day. Facing another Earth Day where in-person events were not possible,





we capitalized on the broad reach of our website. We highlighted virtual events, volunteer opportunities, and available resources so the public could still find opportunities to celebrate across the region.

The most integral component of the Alliance is our strong network of Member Group organizations. Over 30 Member Groups collaborate as a coordinated network to make a difference in the Sierra. Alliance

We hosted Grant Writing, CEQA/NEPA, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Budget Planning workshops to build capacity and high-impact organizations. Member Groups continue to work together, as they have for the last 25 years to protect and restore the natural environment in the Sierra. Visit sierranevadaalliance.org/member-groups to learn about all benefits of joining the Alliance.

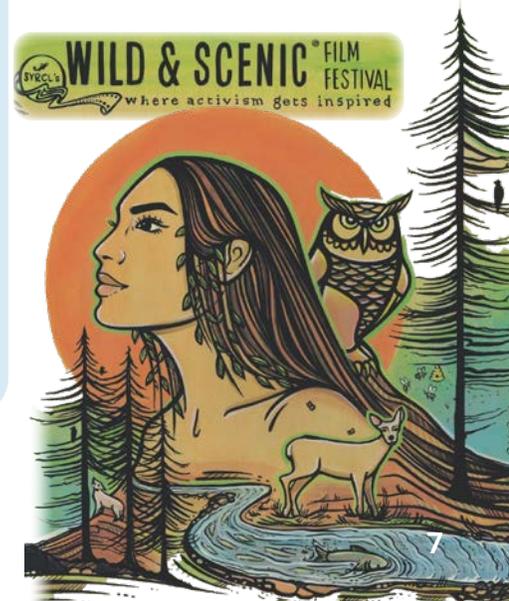
Member Groups

- | | |
|---|--|
| California Watershed Network | Butte County Resource Conservation District |
| Friends of Hope Valley | Calaveras Healthy Impacts Products Solutions |
| North Fork American River Alliance | Clean Up The Lake |
| Sierra Club Maidu Group | Mother Lode Land Trust |
| Sierra Club Sierra Nevada Group | Tahoe Water Suppliers Association |
| Sierra Club Tahoe Group | Restore Hetch Hetchy |
| Washoe Meadows Community | Defenders of Wildlife |
| Upper Merced River Watershed Council | Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) |
| Sierra County Land Trust | Sierra State Parks Foundation |
| California Native Plant Society - Red Bud Chapter | Sierra Streams Institute |
| Sierra Foothills Audubon Society | Truckee Donner Land Trust |
| Snowlands Network | Tuolumne River Trust |
| Wolf Creek Community Alliance | UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center |
| Alpine Watershed Group | American Rivers |
| Mother Lode Chapter - Sierra Club | Sequoia Riverlands Trust |
| Mountain Area Preservation | Yosemite Conservancy |
| Sugar Pine Foundation | |
| American River Conservancy | |

STRONGER TOGETHER

To all Member Group organizations committed to work side-by-side to protect the Sierra

THANK YOU





Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP)

to prepare future leaders

The SNAP program wrapped up its 14th year of Sierra stewardship with 58 members serving at 20 host site organizations.

In the Sierra Nevada, there is a critical need to improve, restore and assess impaired watersheds, enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change, address megafires and improve community stewardship through education and volunteer mobilization. The effects of climate change and drought have rendered Sierra ecosystems and the communities reliant upon them highly vulnerable. Eighteen of the 20 largest wildfires in the recorded history of California have occurred in the Sierra.

By partnering with our host sites, we provide the workforce to meet these unique needs and prepare members to become future environmental leaders.

SNAP achievements:

- ▶ 7,400 watershed acres restored
- ▶ 1,000 sites monitored
- ▶ 12,500 individuals educated
- ▶ 1,900 volunteers recruited
- ▶ 49,000 AmeriCorps service hours



Sierra Corps Forestry Fellowship Program

to build and restore healthy forests

Sierra Corps builds a workforce that increases the capacity of land managers, local agencies, and nonprofits to work together to produce robust forest health and wildfire prevention efforts. In doing so, we mentor and develop future leaders and professional foresters in the forest health industry by creating an upward mobility path.

As the program concludes its second year, Fellows managed work crews throughout the Sierra to perform fuel reduction, fire mitigation, protect watersheds for drinking and agricultural water, reforestation, and much more.

We're proud to share that all of our Fellows have been offered full-time positions with their host sites this year. We look forward to expanding this program to positively impact the pace and scale of forestry management in the Sierra.

Sierra Corps achievements:

- ▶ \$9 million in forest health grant funding
- ▶ 55,000 acres of ecological restoration planned
- ▶ Dozens of forests stewarded
- ▶ 2,000 Sierra acres monitored





Despite the pandemic challenges, the Alliance continues to operate as the hub for stewardship of the Sierra Nevada. This critical work is only possible because of generous donors and volunteers, who have my deepest gratitude.

Laura Beaton
Board President



Goals for 2022

Packed with more than a handful of challenges in the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year, we're motivated to work even harder to protect the Sierra from human-related impacts. Rest assured, we've got plans to address these issues stemming from wildfire, climate change, and overuse of land and water.

- ▶ Internally, we're strengthening our governance and staff expertise and have two strategic planning sessions on deck for the first quarter of the year.
- ▶ We're also launching a new outward-facing initiative, Take Care Sierra, to improve awareness and stewardship of the Sierra Nevada region. We plan to increase funding and protective resources by branding, creating clear messages for stewardship, and marketing the Sierra more comprehensively. In addition, our goal is to provide a broader platform for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) to engage and be heard.
- ▶ We are building the capacity of our forestry, climate, and watershed programs to provide sustainable resources for an even more significant conservation impact on the ground.
- ▶ We are growing our ability to engage in policy work as important initiatives, like 30x30, are taking shape.
- ▶ We continue to evaluate our Climate Program to build community capacity to achieve mandated climate goals and replicate the successes we've seen in the Tahoe/Truckee subregion. We welcome a new Climate Fellow for the 2021 - 2022 service year to continue capacity-building efforts for the city of South Lake Tahoe.

All of this is only possible with the collaborative work of people. We will band together with the conservation community, stakeholders, and supporters like you to double down on our effectiveness.

Thank you to all who have supported our mission to work side by side to build a healthy and resilient Sierra for future generations.

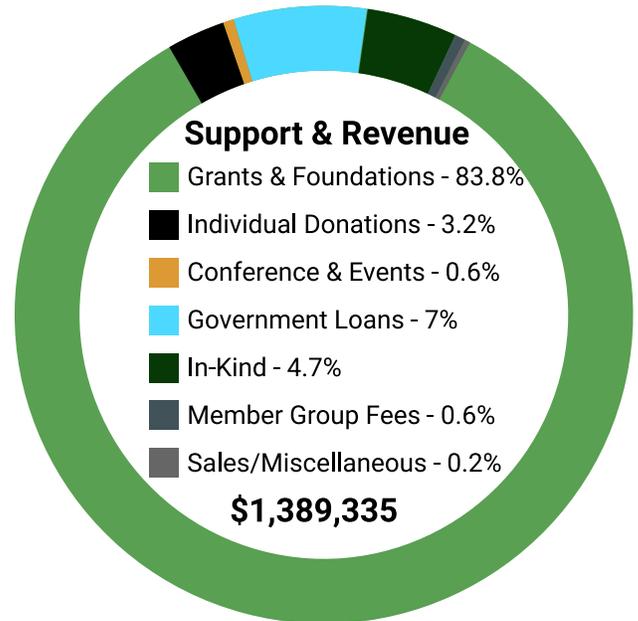


Financial Statements

More than 90 percent of the Sierra Nevada Alliance's total spending is dedicated to programs to protect and preserve the Sierra. This chart and legend below shows program expenses and other spending.

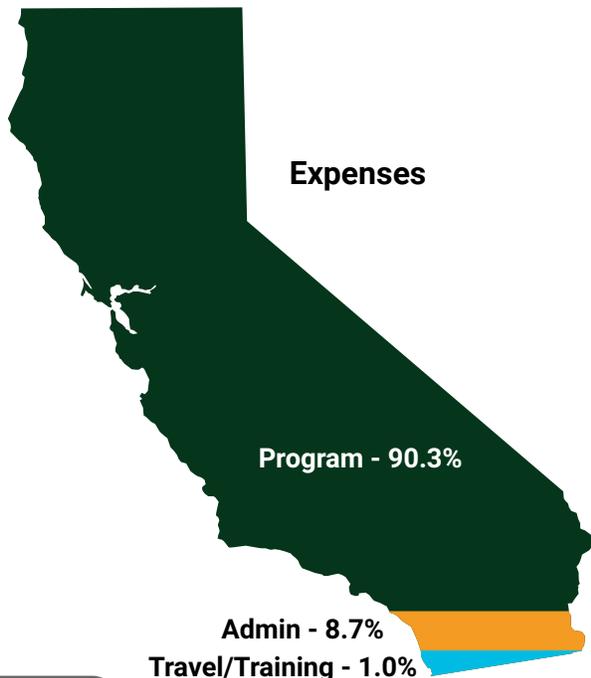
Balance Sheet

Assets	\$
Cash	551,638
Accounts Receivable	177,884
Property & Equipment	766
Restricted Cash	0
Prepaid Other	13,381
Total Assets	<u>\$743,669</u>
Liability and Net Assets	
Accounts Payable	3,117
Accrued Payroll	20,081
Deferred Revenue	371,595
Other Liabilities - Loans	253,522
Total Liabilities	<u>\$648,315</u>
With Restrictions	500
Without Restrictions	81,500
Temporarily Restricted & Net Assets	13,354
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$743,669</u>



Profit & Loss

Support & Revenue	\$
Individual Donations	44,191
Conference & Events	8,249
Grants & Foundations	1,163,752
Government Loans - IDEL & PPP	97,119
In-Kind	65,237
Member Group Fees	8,321
Sales/Miscellaneous	2,466
Total Revenue	<u>\$1,389,335</u>
Expenses	
Personnel, Benefits & Consultants	672,371
Conference & Events	1,313
In-Kind	65,237
Operating	52,770
SNAP	571,142
Travel/Training	13,148
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,375,981</u>
Profit/Loss	<u>\$13,354</u>



We're pleased to share our financial reports to provide a clear picture of our financial stability. We set long term and yearly goals to ensure our programs are fully funded, plan for growth and provide competitive salaries for our team of experts. This is all possible thanks to supporters like you.

Jodi Schmitz
Finance & Human Resources Director

Friends of the Sierra Nevada Alliance

The Alliance would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported our work in 2020-2021. Together, we have accomplished so much on behalf of the Sierra.

Foundations

Latrobe Foundation
Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
Artnz Family Foundation
Long Foundation
Patagonia
Rose Foundation
El Dorado Community Foundation
Lake Tahoe Conservation Fund
Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority
Tahoe Womens Fund

Christopher Quinn
Christopher Siano
Clifford Anderson
Cole Hawkins
Colin West
Crystal Waters
Cynthia Archer
Dale and Linda Sanderson
Dana Baker
David and Fay Bradford
David and Frances Reneau
David and Terri Pagni
David B Lewis
David Bradford
David Graber
David Lan
David Lewis
David Miller
David Miller Jeanne Rosato
Deborah Waldear
Dennis and Diane De Curr
Dennis and Sharon Cavallo
Diana Hall
Diana Mary Exline Family Trust
Donald and Patricia Malberg
Drew Robarts
Duncan King
Edward Galantowicz
Edward Horton
Eileen Bruce
Ellen King
Ellie Routt
Epstein Roth Trust
Frank Dean
Gabriel Ross
Gary and Sonja Hirsch
Gary Patton
Gayle Denney
Gerald Koch
Gina Matesic
Gordon Polon
Harry Lum
Hillary Huff
Howard Williams
Jacqueline Morgan
Jake Hudson
James and Diana McWilliams
Jane Ann Lamph
Janet Feil
Jay Newburgh
Jeffrey Erdoes
Jenny Hatch
Jerome Engel and Shirley Fisher
Jesse Bregman
Joan Intrator
Joe and Leah Fontaine
Joel Masser
John Dickinson
John Beaton
John Dickinson
John Forney
John Kinnear
John Moore

John Morse
John Phillips
John Trinkl
Joseph Hammer
Joseph Marvin
Joseph Shalant
Joshua Switzky
Joy Walker and John Morse
Judith Abeles
Judith Hilding
Judith Leipold
Judy Guinn
Karen Barrow
Karl Pister
Kathy Belick
Katie Rutherford, MD
Kelly Spicer
Kevin McCue
Kimberly Ligocki
Kirk and Alice Hanson
Lance Williams
Laura Beaton
Laura Hinrichs Living Trust
Laurel Ames
Laurel Harmon
Laurel Prevetti
Laurie Schwaller
Leah Fontaine
Leigh and Carol Mintz
Linda Brown
Linda Kilb
Linda Shute
Lisa Scorallo
Louis Leonard
Lynn Suter
M and G Gregg
Madison Larson
Madonna Dunbar
Maiya Greenwood
Marcus Libkind
Margaret Marshall
Margy Cottriel
Maria Mircheva
Mark Ginsburg
Mark Quinlan
Marshall Hamilton
Marvin Shinnerer
Maureen Forney
Melinda Steuer
Melinda Leffler
Melissa Newton
Michael Cohen
Michael Diggles
Michael Grace
Michael Hamilton
Morgan Family Trust
Myla Marks
Nancy and Peter Hussman
Nancy Wagner
Nate Vorapharuek
Nicole Hastings-Bethel
Norris Clement
Oscar Balaguer

Pamela Evans
Pamela Nelson
Paul Bettelheim
Peter Sinclair
Peter Vanzant and Mary Dewitt
Peter Vorster
Philanthropic Ventures
Pierre Redmond
Piers Straily
Piete and Henrik Vreman
Priya Finnemore
Rachel Rodgers
Ray Griffiths and Irene Sakaishi
Reese Savage
Reijer Groenveld
Ricardo Monet
Richard and Kathryn Harvey
Richard Kannisto
Richard Lohman
Robert and Francis Mills
Robert Bloom trust
Robert Braddock
Robin Center
Roderick Bushnell
Roger and Stephanie Moulton-Peters
Ruth Macfarlane
Sally Cancelmo
Sandra Wagner
Scientific Ag Co
Scott Drummond
Scwab Charitable
Sidney Peter Briggs
South Tahoe Refuse
Stephanie Mooers
Stephen Arnon
Stephen John Rebscher
Stephen Lyon
Steven White
Susan Chandler
Susan Coryell
Susan Roper
Teresa Nemeth
Terry and Carol Manning
Terry Lee Maul
Thomas and Patricia Martens
Thomas Feige
Thomas Harder
Thomas Weitzel
Todd Ellsworth
V.S. Maier
Victoria Micu and Michael Lengyel
William Hull
William Joyce
William Nico
William Robinson Family Trust
Yvette Mathiessen
Zoe Harrold

Sponsors

**Mount Ritter Sponsor -
\$1,000 - \$4,999**
Schute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP
Tahoe Oral Surgery

**Freel Peak Sponsor -
\$500 - \$999**

A to Z Insurance
Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minteer LLP
Sierra Business Council
The Sierra Fund
Tahoe Oral Surgery

Sierra Keepers (\$500+)

Andrew Rosenberg
Beth Pratt
Bob Barrett
Christina Witsberger
Dr Ralph Koldinger
Jeffrey Hatch
John and Maureen Forney
Mariano Banos
Mr. Jeffrey Colin
Richard Taylor
SH Mudie
Susan Davis Hopkins
The Corwin Denney Foundation
The O'Grady Family Fund

Pika Protectors (\$0 - \$499)

Adam Safir
Ali Dickson
Allison Pedley
Anderson Bartlett
Barbara and Larry Tidball
Black Oak Animal Hospital
Brenda Gilbert
Brooks Martin
Bruce and Karen Nicholson
Candace Toogood
Carol Lenhert
Carol Manning
Caroline Hickson
Carolyn Pretzer
Catherine O'Riley
Catherine Strand
Celia Barry
Charles Ashley
Charles Kellermeyer
Christopher Pederson

Memorials

Deborah Dittman in Memory of
Edward Fallavena



American pikas suffer in high heat, and in the Sierra Nevada, pikas are disappearing. Save the Sierra, save the pika!



To learn more about the issues impacting the Sierra, Alliance programs to protect the Sierra, and how to get involved, visit sierranevadaalliance.org.



Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

is administered by California Volunteers and sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service.



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— ALLIANCE —

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