

Sierra Nevada Alliance

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2016-2017



The Sierra Nevada Alliance's mission is to protect and restore Sierra Nevada lands, water and wildlife and to support the health, vibrancy and resilience of the region's rural and urban communities. We do this by strengthening the work of people and organizations committed to the environmental integrity of the Sierra, and by supporting individuals and groups on region-wide efforts consistent with our mission and core values.



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.



Jenny Hatch
Executive Director



Executive Director's Report

Hello!

During the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, the Sierra Nevada Alliance completed its 24th year! I am happy to report that we are growing and strengthening our conservation impact and partner work.

Founded in 1993, the Alliance has been protecting and restoring Sierra lands, water, wildlife, and rural communities. We do this by building the capacity of our network of conservation partners, leading Sierra-wide initiatives, and implementing conservation on the ground to bring about region-wide change.

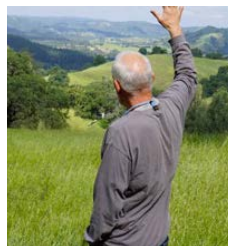
With the federal government eliminating environmental protections, it is empowering to work on the regional and local levels to affect change.

The following report highlights our accomplishments, thanks our supporters, and outlines our plans for the upcoming year.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our work!

Jenny Hatch

Jenny Hatch,
Executive Director, Sierra Nevada Alliance



"The world and the Sierra suffered a great loss with the passing of Bill Center this Fall. I knew him through the Sierra Nevada Alliance and the Planning and Conservation League. He was always ready with a smile and a kind and supportive word. Bill was a founding Board member of the Sierra Nevada Alliance and set the stage for all the important work to follow. With this in mind, we thought it fitting to tribute this Annual Report in his loving memory."

Doug Carstens, Alliance Board President

Meet our Staff & Contractors

Current:

Core Staff:



Jenny Hatch
Executive Director



Cami Chavez
Finance Manager



Lynn Baumgartner
SNAP Program Director



Carley O'Connell
SNAP Program Associate

Contractors:



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Steve Smallcomb

Robert Dean

Esther Feldman

Steve Haze

The Sierra Nevada Alliance would also like to thank Richard Taylor and John Friedrich for their service on the Board. Their service has termed out. Your impact will be felt for years to come!



Richard Taylor



John Friedrich

Program Progress Reports



Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership Program

The Alliance's Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) completed its 10th year, and launched the 11th year! The two SNAP Programs that ran during this fiscal year (2015-16 and 2016-17) consisted of fifty-one members at eighteen nonprofits, environmental agencies and tribes in sixteen cities across the Sierra. Members served from Oroville to Visalia, from Tahoe to Bishop – restoring and assessing watersheds, educating Sierra residents and visitors, and building community stewardship through volunteer support. With our partners, we more than doubled the federal investment of \$363,000 and leveraged more than \$835,000 towards watershed restoration and community stewardship in the Sierra.



Teagan Dolan

SNAP Member Highlight: Teagan Dolan, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center

Teagan graduated from the New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 2015. While in college, Teagan tested and mapped water quality for residents in the coalfields of West Virginia. It was here she found a passion for teaching others about water quality as a means of community empowerment.

At her host site, Teagan taught hands-on environmental education at the Tahoe Science Center. She primarily served as the coordinator for the Youth

Science Institute—a program for high-schoolers that allows them to explore different STEM fields. Teagan provided students with the opportunity to interact with STEM professionals through activities like building drones, conducting snow surveys, testing endangered frogs for diseases, and processing Lake Tahoe water samples. Her passion for environmental education and student mentoring grew as she watched kids fall in love with science.

During her service term, she met and educated hundreds Sierra residents and visitors. Most importantly, she was able to help inspire the next generation of environmental scientists, leaders, and advocates!

Since 2007, 284 SNAP Members have ...

- ◆ Restored more than 16,000 watershed acres;
- ◆ Monitored more than 3,000 sites;
- ◆ Educated more than 180,000 individuals;
- ◆ Recruited more than 35,000 volunteers; and
- ◆ Contributed more than 500,000 hours of service.



Program administered by CaliforniaVolunteers and sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service.



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Keeping light in the range.



Member Group Program-*Building the capacity of conservation groups working throughout the Sierra*

The Sierra Nevada is a diverse and vast range with multiple regions, but only when it is viewed as one mountain range has it inspired national and international attention. The Sierra Nevada Alliance addresses this reality by helping to unify the network of groups working for our region. The Sierra Nevada Alliance aims to protect and restore the Sierra Nevada by strengthening individual efforts and joining together Sierra conservation organizations to be a region-wide force. The most integral component of the Alliance is our strong network of Member Groups. Along with providing the most customized support possible to each of our members, the current goal of the Alliance is to expand our network of Member Groups to enable us to provide the most comprehensive, collaborative, inspiring, and influential resources possible.

As a part of the Alliance, Member Groups join our coordinated network in order to make a larger difference on issues throughout the Sierra. The Alliance and our Member Groups have been working together for over 20 years to protect and restore the natural environment and community values of the Sierra. The Sierra faces extreme challenges from climate change, population growth, and resource management. It is of paramount importance to support local efforts to address these issues, and to protect the Sierra's special places, while building a network that will be the foundation for future successful efforts.

All it takes for an organization to be a Member Group with the Alliance is to endorse the Sierra Nevada Alliance mission statement. Only non-profit, charitable organizations are invited to become Member Groups of the Sierra Nevada Alliance.

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Alliance Member Groups receive the following benefits:

- ◆ **Discount on the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership**
- ◆ **Gain Access to Funding and Fundraising Expertise**
- ◆ **Capacity Building Training**
- ◆ **Secure a Seat at the Table for Regional and Statewide Issues of Importance**
- ◆ **Receive Discounts to Alliance**
- ◆ **Events Increase Visibility and Recognition for Member Groups**
- ◆ **Stay Abreast of Issues, Strategies and Expertise Important to the Sierra**
- ◆ **Join a Unique, Synergistic Sierra-Wide Team – Never Have to Go it Alone**





2017 Member Group Meeting Summary

In September 2017, Sierra conservationists attended the Sierra Nevada Alliance's Annual Member Group meeting in Alpine County, California. Attendees shared their program work and discussed ways to better collaborate moving forward. Ideas generated included the Alliance providing webinar special topic trainings throughout the coming year, building SNAP host site collaboration and member exchange programs, and building an innovative agenda for our 2018 Conference planned for August in Lake Tahoe.

The event included a graduation ceremony for all 28 members of the 2016/17 Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP). The members each presented on the work they did and the impacts they had throughout the Sierra over their term. After the presentations, Member Group representatives, SNAP Members, and Alliance staff enjoyed a positive networking session to conclude the meeting.

Save the date: August 16-19th, 2018 for this year's Alliance conference in the Tahoe Area!



Regional Climate Change Program

Engaging Regional Planning to Protect our Natural Environment



South Lake Tahoe 100% Resolution Passing in April 2017. The Alliance was the Regional Coordinator for the National March for Climate.

This past January the Sierra Nevada Alliance reinvigorated its Regional Climate Program by partnering with Al Gore's non-profit, The Climate Reality Project, and the Sierra Club's, Ready for 100. The motivation to prioritize this program was the rampant attack on climate programs nationally under the current administration. Working at the local/regional level has proven to be an effective target. The program goal is to achieve a 100% renewable Sierra. The Alliance has already seen success fostering community wide resolutions for 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100%renewable energy by 2050. The resolutions, and the Alliance, have even obtained national recognition for our efforts!

The approach taken is to leverage regional Member Group/conservation group partners and there-by organizing grassroots coalitions. The coalitions role is to request their city or town council to adopt this resolution. Alliance staff takes an active role in facilitating and leading each group on the roadmap to resolution adoption. In addition, we have been connecting the various community coalitions to each other to share knowledge and resources.To obtain resolutions this year, the Alliance facilitated meetings with decision makers, hosted petition platforms, shared action alerts, conducted social media campaigns, organized community turn-out, and even led a regional climate march.

For more information about the I Am Pro Snow Program of Climate Reality Project:
<https://www.climate realityproject.org/pro-snow>

For more information about the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Program:
<https://www.sierradub.org/ready-for-100>



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Keeping light in the range.



Over 500 people came out for Earth Day to attend this march in Lake Tahoe.

Since starting this effort in January 2017, three Sierra communities, South Lake Tahoe, Nevada City, and Truckee, have all passed 100% renewable resolutions. Reno and Mammoth have all also formed coalitions and we anticipate movement towards resolution adoption in 2018. We plan to begin engaging communities in the Southern Sierra in 2018.

If you would like to get involved in this effort, please contact our Executive Director, Jenny Hatch. We would love to work with you and your community!



Celebrating 24 Years of Accomplishments

The following is a brief timeline of some key highlights of our 24 years:



1991	Tom Knudson's Pulitzer Prize winning series of articles entitled "Sierra in Peril" prompts statewide attention to the oft forgotten Sierra.
1992	First Board Meeting of the Sierra Nevada Alliance and the Alliance is incorporated in 1993 as a charitable organization.
1993	Laurel Ames is hired as the first Executive Director and 10-12 member groups join!
1994	First Annual Conference at Mammoth Lakes. Alliance conference grows over the years to over 200 participants and keynotes from renowned authors, state leaders, and national conservation directors.
1995	Engages public participation in the congressionally funded Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project.
1996	Sierra Nevada Alliance receives first private foundation grant.
1997	Sierra Futures Fund begins and over next 5 years \$30,000 mini-grants are given to 25 groups.
1999	Alliance Co-Sponsored Range Rides with California Cattleman's Association and California Rangeland Trust and supports the West Point Renewal Project with Foothill Conservancy. Alliance releases first major publication, <i>Watershed Council Toolkit</i> .
2000	The Watershed Principles created by the Alliance and Regional Council of Rural Counties are adopted by the State. Sierra Nevada Alliance begins convening the first meetings of land trusts in the region that spawns the Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council
2001	The first Watershed Director is hired. <i>The Sierra Land-Use Handbook</i> is released.
2002	Alliance completes 8 regional meetings in one year. Sierra Nevada Alliance joins Ski Area Citizens Coalition and releases First Ski Area Citizens Coalition Report Card in Sierra and California garnering statewide media attention. This goes on to become an Annual Event, garnering national attention and over 500 articles on ski area environmental performance over the years.
2003	Alliance produces and releases at news conferences throughout California <i>Troubled Waters of the Sierra</i> showcasing how all Sierra rivers are impaired and polluted and calling for increased state investment in watershed restoration and protection in the region. The Alliance established a new electronic alert system, issuing alerts to hundreds of individuals and groups on cutting edge conservation issues from our network of activists around the range. This continues through FY 12-13, providing over 200 alerts since it began.
2004	After three years of legislative effort, The Sierra Nevada Conservancy legislation passes thanks to Alliance, The Sierra Fund, Sierra Business Council, Sierra Cascade Land Trust and other allies! The Alliance receives award from The Sierra Fund for helping create the new Conservancy.
2005	Completes training of over 150 water quality monitors on 7 watersheds in the Sierra with the assistance of SYRCL. This goes on over the years, creating over 9 ongoing watershed monitoring programs throughout the Sierra. <i>First Sierra Climate Change Toolkit</i> released. Over the years three editions are released and over 2000 copies distributed. Publication recognized by state and United Nations as cutting edge resource on climate adaptation. Over 20 groups take the pledge to champion GHG reductions and climate change adaptation. Sierra Nevada Alliance releases report <i>Planning for the Future</i> , chronicling growth and development threatening our rural way of life and ecosystems. News conferences held throughout the State, with stories appearing in over 80 newspapers including: San Francisco Chronicle, LA Times, and Washington Post.
2006	Celebrates Mariposa General Plan adoption that helps save 37,000 acres of open space and includes model elements. The plan was helped to pass thanks to the teamwork of the Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government (MERG), the Alliance, Laurie Oberholtzer and Tom Infusino.
2006	<i>Releases State of Sierra Waters: A Sierra Nevada Watersheds Index</i> . Simultaneous press conferences were held in San Francisco, Sacramento and Reno and a total of fourteen television stations, seven radio stations, and sixteen newspapers carried the story (including a front-page, above-the-fold article in the Reno Gazette-Journal).



	<p>Alliance hosts first Sierra IRWM Conference in Sacramento, bringing together IRWM leaders for the first time. Alliance celebrates completion of first Clean Water Act 319h grant, in which we regranted funds to more than 25 watershed efforts in the Sierra, produced a restoration guide, and provided funding and guidance for community demonstration projects, which included tours for hundreds of Sierra residents.</p>
2007	<p>Alliance releases report at four news conferences called <i>Dangerous Development: Wildfire and Rural Sprawl in the Sierra Nevada</i>, which reviewed how wildfire and population growth are on a collision course and how current land-use policies fail at-risk communities. The story reaches a national audience through an NPR story and AP stories nationwide, in addition to ten local TV stories.</p> <p>Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership founded. SNAP members complete first year monitoring 389 sites, restoring over 4100 acres, educating 30,000 individuals, and recruiting over 3300 volunteers.</p>
2008	<p>Alliance watershed program launches new Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden project, beginning distribution of new Guide and training community homeowner consultation programs. This continues on throughout the years, creating demonstration gardens, home consultation programs, distributing over 2500 guides, and working with Truckee, providing over 180 unique workbooks for homeowners resulting in over 100 best practices being implemented.</p> <p>The Alliance releases new resource with the Local Government Commission called <i>Planning for Water-Wise Development in the Sierra</i> and then conducts six Land & Water policy forums throughout the region, as well as presentations to at the Calaveras Planning Summit, 2009 National River Rally in Baltimore, and the Sierra Business Council conference.</p> <p>The California Adaptation Strategy adopted principles for adaptation that were symbiotic with Alliance principles to ensure we protect natural resources while sustaining healthy communities.</p> <p>The Alliance also launched a new collaborative effort called the Sierra Water Work Group to champion Sierra water issues and coordinate among plans, agencies, and NGOs and share strategies and best practices for protecting Sierra waters. The SWWG continues to this day and now the Alliance hosts an annual Summit on integrated water management for local and state water agencies, conservation leaders, tribes, and attorneys.</p>
2009	<p><i>The Sierra Spokes</i> free sustainability e-newsletter was launched.</p> <p>The Regional Climate Change Program helps shapes a strong Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Climate Action Plan for the entire Sierra region, the first of its kind!</p> <p>The Alliance's leadership with our Sierra Climate Change Adaptation Principles inspired the California Adaptation Strategy to adopt similar principles for the entire state.</p>
2010	<p>The Sustainable Sierra Communities Program secured an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer and designed a new model sustainability project, EmPower El Dorado, that helped homeowners save money and protect their health, as well as saving energy and water. This project reached over 200 residents and provided consultations to 49 on ways to improve their home, producing lessons on how to replicate this effort in the Sierra.</p>
2011	<p>The Regional Climate Change Program founded the first Sierra Community Organizer Academy which 25 activists attended to learn effective campaigning. This becomes an Annual Sierra event and trains over 75 conservation leaders as of 2013.</p> <p>The Regional Climate Change Program also organized a Sierra Meadow Forum with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, sharing cutting-edge strategies to restore the meadow ecosystems of the region.</p>
2012	<p>Celebrates that through partnership with the Truckee River Watershed Council, our Truckee River Friendly Landscaping project had over 100 river-friendly practices implemented by homeowners, over 180 unique home workbooks provided to homeowners, and over 1800 Sierra Yard and Garden Guides distributed throughout Truckee.</p>
2013	<p>We celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Alliance with Bill McKibben as as the keynote speaker at our annual conference.</p>
2015	<p>SNAP Member Sara Kokkelenberg was named the Catherine Milton California AmeriCorps Member of the Year.</p>
2016	<p>We concluded the 10th year of the SNAP program.</p>
2017	<p>The Alliance organized and facilitated community grassroots coalitions that achieved 100% renewable energy resolutions from the cities of South Lake Tahoe, Nevada City, and Truckee.</p>

Friends of the Sierra Nevada Alliance

The Alliance would like to thank everyone who donated during 2016-2017

FOUNDATIONS

Arntz
Patagonia

SIERRA KEEPERS

(\$500+)

Patricia Angell
Bob Barrett
Janet and K Baumgartner
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Doug Carstens
Jan Chatten-Brown
Bryant and Judith Danner
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(\$100-\$499)

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South Tahoe Ski & Board Rentals
SplitRock Music
Tahoe Adventure Company
Tahoe Mountain Brewing Company
Tahoe Oil & Spice
Tahoe Truckee Lumber Company
The Carmel Gallery
Totally Board
Truckee Donner Horsemen
Association
Truckee Pro Rodeo Association
Truckee River Winery
Vibram
White Buffalo

Join us in Sierra Conservation!

Alliance individual members are part of a unique group that supports Sierra-wide conservation and restoration. Through joining the Alliance as an individual member, your contribution allows us to continue to implement the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership Program, foster a deeper dialogue of collaboration amongst conservation groups working throughout the Sierra, and advocate for the protection and restoration of Sierra Nevada ecosystems.

Thank you for your support, we couldn't do it without you!

www.sierranevadaalliance.org/donate/

Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2017

Assets

Cash	\$ 85,508
Accounts Receivable	\$ 158,422
Property and Equip.	\$ -
Restricted Cash.	\$ 22,497
Prepaid Other	\$ 5,029
Total Assets	\$ 271,457

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$ 3
Vacation Payable/Payroll	\$ 24,014
Total Liabilities	\$ 24,017
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 113,775
Net Assets - Unrestricted	\$ 133,665
Temporarily Restricted & Net Assets	\$ 247,441

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 271,457

Financial Statement

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Support and Revenue

Sierra Keepers/Board/Major Donors	\$ 24,884
Conference and Events.	\$ 31,459
Contributions	\$ 17,022
Foundations.	\$ 18,500
Grants	\$ 653,046
In-Kind	\$ 45,667
Member Groups	\$ 7,340
Sales/Miscellaneous	\$ 2,420
Total Revenue	\$ 800,337

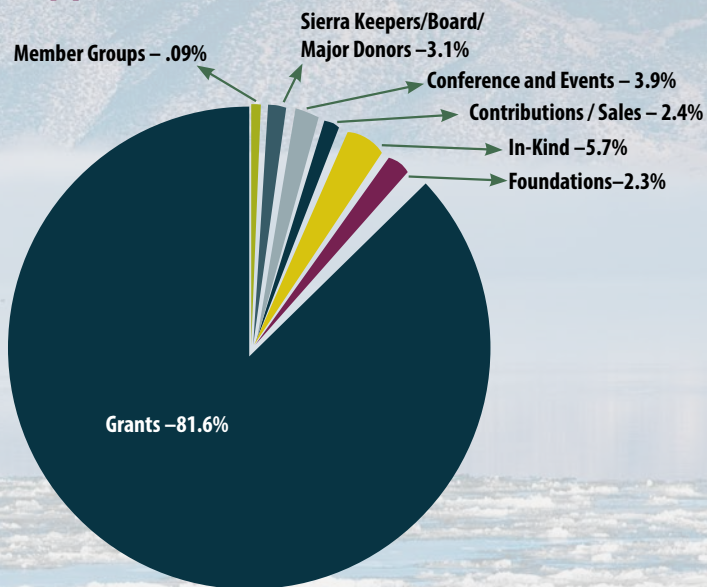
Expenses

Personnel and Benefits.	\$ 200,453
Conference and Facilities	\$ 33,622
Consultants & Sub Contractors.	\$ 21,661
In-Kind	\$ 45,667
Operating.	\$ 22,676
Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership.	\$ 504,061
Travel/Training	\$ 2,965

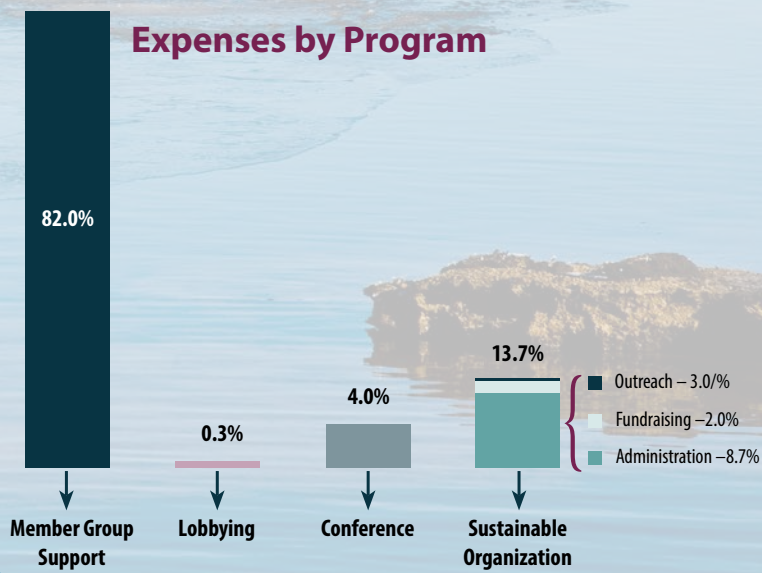
Total Expenses \$ 831,105



Support and Revenue



Expenses by Program





To learn more about our work across the Sierra as well as relevant Sierra news and upcoming events, subscribe to our bi-monthly e-newsletter, the “*Sierra Resource*,” by visiting www.SierraNevadaAlliance.org.



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

P.O. Box 7989

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158

530.542.4546

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www.sierranevadaalliance.org