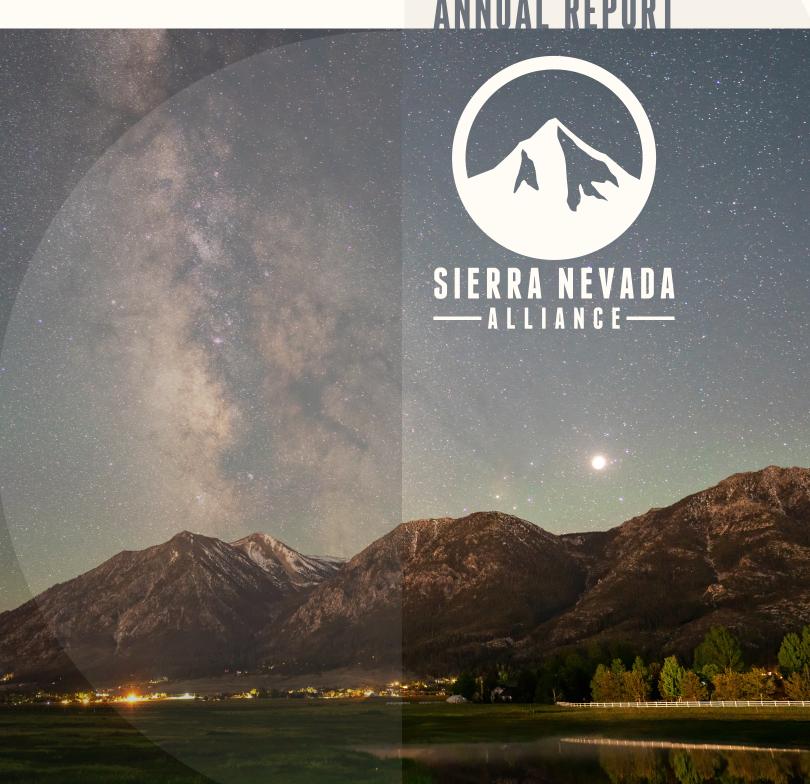
## 2024-ANNUAL REPORT





## Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends and Partners,

As we reflect on the past year, I am struck by the resilient roots that have anchored us through the Alliance's past 30 years of work to protect the Sierra. Just as the region's Juniper trees spread to support life above ground, our partners and community supporters are like roots that provide the foundation for programs that grow a sustainable future in the Sierra Nevada region.

We are excited to share our growth this year throughout this report. For example:

- This fall, we were honored to coordinate the inaugural Sierra Nevada Latino Conservation Week and host two of our own free community events in the Tahoe Basin.
- Our advocacy efforts led to over 50 in-person meetings with state legislators, including Sierra Day at the Capitol with 70+ participants. We also secured a Climate and Natural Resource Bond on the November ballot through Proposition 4, despite a challenging state budget, and saw it pass on Election Day.
- We've helped build conservation workforce to strengthen on-theground conservation by collaborating with over 40 organizations, agencies, and tribal partners.
- We continue to inspire youth to pursue conservation careers through our efforts such as the Lake Tahoe Ambassador Program, which secured over \$200 thousand in new funding this year.
- Our technical assistance with grants was provided to tribes across the region and helped secure over \$5 million in funding.

At the core of everything we do is a network of partners rooted in a diverse community of people who care deeply about protecting our natural landscapes, uplifting local communities, and creating a vibrant and resilient region.

As we continue to branch out and grow, our goals for the coming year are to do more for the underrepresented communities of the region through uplifting their voices and providing technical assistance to help implement their priorities. We also hope to sustain and expand our conservation impact by leading regional initiatives and capacity building efforts. Read on to learn more about the past year!

With warm wishes and appreciation,

Genny Hatch

Jenny Hatch

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

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THANK YOU FOR THE SERVICE OF OUR OUTGOING MEMBERS:

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**EDUCATION & OUTREACH COORDINATOR** 

#### **Kelsey Glastetter**

FORESTRY PROGRAM MANAGER

#### Nicole Laubach Feretti

SIERRA NEVADA AMERICORPS
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

#### MK Pennolar

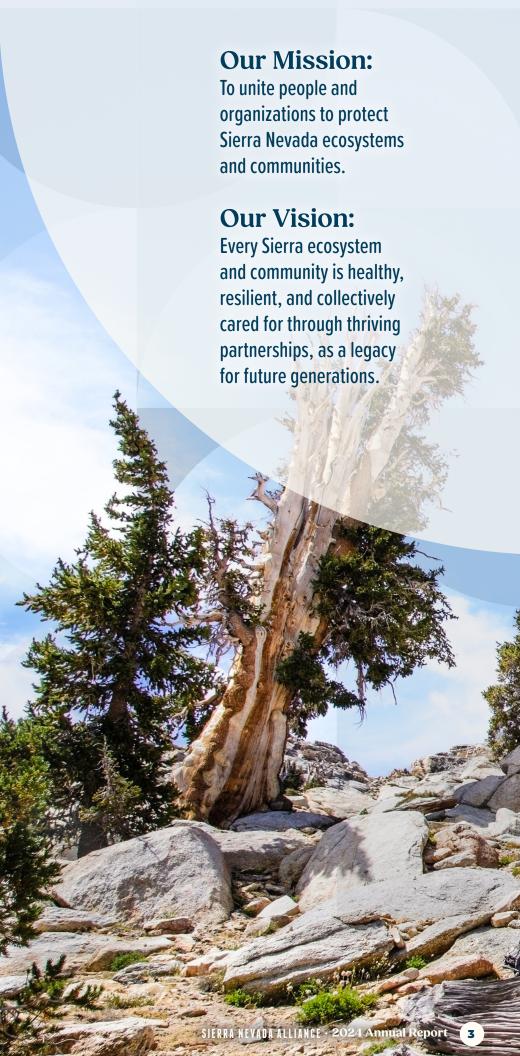
EDUCATION & OUTREACH ASSISTANT

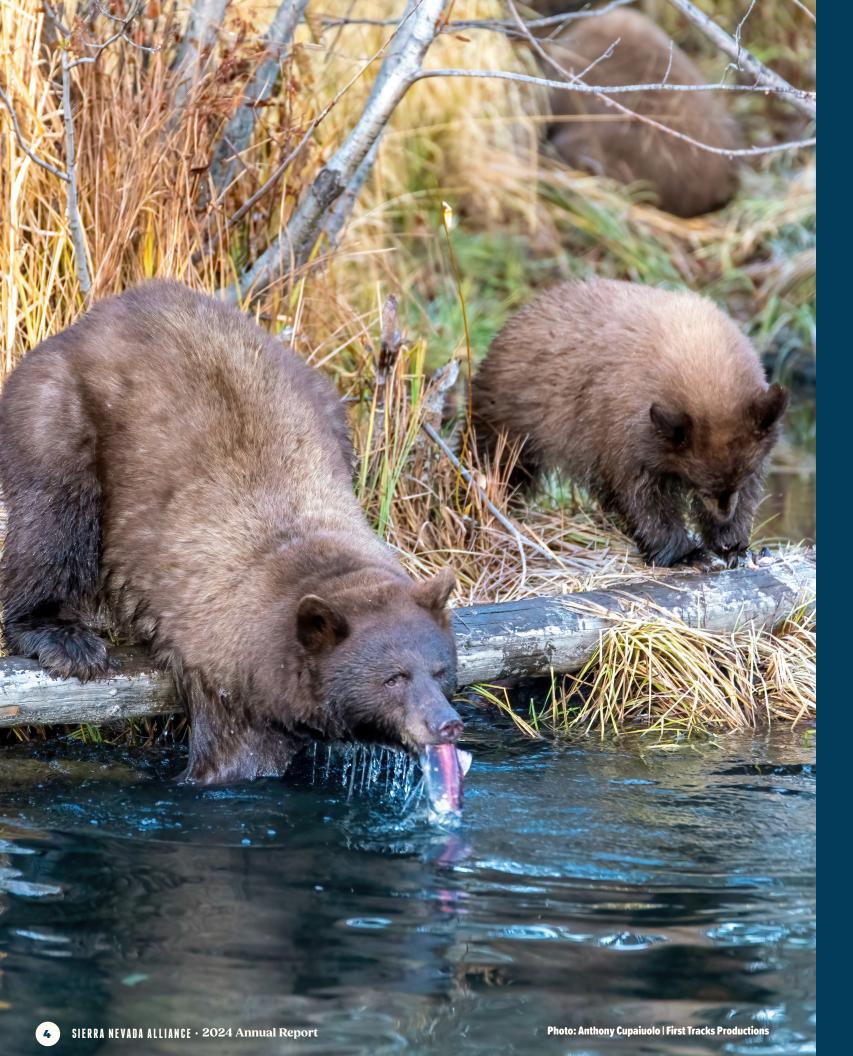
To learn more about the issues impacting the Sierra Nevada, Alliance programs to protect this magnificent region, and how to get involved, visit sierranevadaalliance.org.

This Annual Report is property of the Sierra Nevada Alliance. Photos are provided by Sierra Nevada Alliance staff unless otherwise noted.

Designed by Melissa Welliver | mwelliver.com

Cover & Back Cover Photo: Anthony Cupaiuolo | First Tracks Productions







## Uplifting the Sierra Nevada

youth environmental Ambassadors served at 7 host sites

20

**SNAP** members served at 13 host sites

**Forestry Fellows** served at 14 host sites

12,302

service hours of watershed monitoring and restoration

1.2 million

trees planted

14,885

service hours in environmental education & outreach

\$5 million

secured for tribal priorities **Capacity building for** 

Member **Groups** 

\$1 million

dedicated to forestry workforce development

1,500+ volunteers

engaged

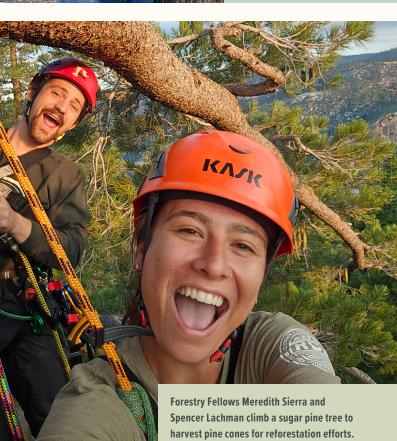
**Held over** 

legislative meetings to advocate for the Sierra 8,000+

community members engaged through **12** in-person events

# SNAP Graduation Ceremony at Camp Lotus CA where members, staff, SNA Board members and Host Site Supervisors gather to celebrate the culmination of a year of service.













## **Sierra Corps Forestry** Fellowship Program

This year, the Sierra Nevada Alliance's Forestry Program truly excelled as a driving force for forest restoration in the Sierra! Through an ambitious combination of reforestation and fuels reduction initiatives, the Sierra Corps Forestry Fellowship Program hired staff that reduced wildfire risks and revitalized vital forest landscapes, positioning our work as a model of proactive conservation. Our technical training sessions empowered our team and local partners with essential project management skills, creating a community united in conservation and fully prepared to tackle restoration challenges.

Forest health is our main focus, and the team we've built has kept their eyes on the prize. Our team's dedicated reforestation efforts, fuel load reduction, and education about fire and living with the hazards of the forest are ensuring healthy habitats. Additionally, many on our team have been focused on cone scouting, surveying, and collection efforts that have laid the foundation for future forests, preserving the diversity of native seeds essential to the Sierra's resilience.

Each achievement brings us closer to a restored, thriving Sierra. Within this vision we look to experts for advice and were honored this year to learn from the Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe and Maidu Summit Consortium as host sites sharing traditional ecological knowledge.

# 2()24

#### SUCCESSES

Hired our biggest Forestry Fellowship cohort yet: 14 fellows

Largest range of service to-date from Chester to Porterville and Reno to Sacramento

### BY THE NUMBERS

2,440,298 tree seedlings grown and distributed

1.2 million trees planted

**650** bushels of cones collected

**6 grants** written to support restoration projects in the Sierra Nevada

**Created and implemented 12 Professional Development Courses** 

#### HOST SITES

**American Forests** 

**Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe** 

**Columbia College** 

Eastern Madera **County Fire Safe** Council

**Coarsegold Resource Conservation District** 

**University of** Nevada, Reno

**Maidu Summit** Consortium

**University of Nevada,** Reno-Bisbing Lab

Yosemite/ Sequoia Resource Conservation & **Development Council** 

**CAL FIRE L.A. Moran** Reforestation Center & Bureau of **Land Management** 

**US Forest Service Chico Seed Orchard** 

**US Forest Service Foresthill Seed** Orchard

**US Forest Service Placerville Nursery** 

**US Forest Service Sierra National** Forest

#### **FUNDERS**

**CALFIRE Wood Products & Bioenergy** 

**Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation** 



Spring 2024 SNAP member Stephanie Smith and Forestry Fellows Meredith Sierra and Kevin Kirk create vegetation piles for cultural burning lead by Chairman Ron Goode of the North Fork Mono Tribe. Photo: Rebecca Williams

Member Emily Griffin piques students' interest in the natural world by teaching about plants, pollinators and more during Summer Camp at Sierra House Elementary School's garden and grow domes. Photo: Nicole Laubach Ferretti

## Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership

The Sierra Nevada Alliance AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) program continues to address climate resilience through on-the-ground work and building capacity. Service sites across the Sierra are focused on a variety of aspects such as ecosystem assessment, restoration, and monitoring, youth and community stewardship education, and volunteer recruitment and management, all in support of climate resilience. This array of tasks allows the SNAP program to recruit a wider array of community members who care about our natural spaces, but might not see themselves doing traditional field work.

SNA and SNAP actively seek to draw under-represented and under-resourced community members outside and involve them in the personal and communal resiliency building necessary to safeguard this irreplaceable region. Recognizing that this land has been stewarded for thousands of years, we prioritize partnerships with Tribes to elevate their ecological knowledge and train early-stage professionals in cultural humility. This year we partnered with Chairman Ron Goode of the North Fork Mono Tribe to attend a Cultural Burn training and we are thrilled that the Bishop Paiute Tribe continued as a longterm host site.

Overall, this year's 20 SNAP members infused the Sierra with over 31,000 volunteer hours in conservation work that contributed to watershed and human health.

#### SUCCESSES

Due to a program focus on member satisfaction we have high member retention and a 95% graduation rate

432 acres restored in 23-24: SNAP 86 acres ahead of our 3 year, 3,000 acres goal

## BY THE NUMBERS

**20 SNAP Members: 8 SNAP Members found** career positions post-service

**Educated 1,512 volunteers**: 5,180 hours of volunteering

\$11,918 raised for host sites

12.302 hours in watershed assessment & restoration service

12,885 hours in environmental education & outreach service

836 hours in volunteer recruitment & support service

3,346 professional development and training **hours** for Members

**Sierra House Elementary School** Sierra Nevada

**South Yuba River** Citizens League

**Tahoe Regional Planning Agency** 

Seguoia **Riverlands** Trust

**UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center** 

> **American Forests, USFS Region 5 Placerville Nursery** Sierra Club

**Bishop Paiute Tribe American Rivers Tuolumne River Trust Trout Unlimited** 

**Inyo County** Water Department

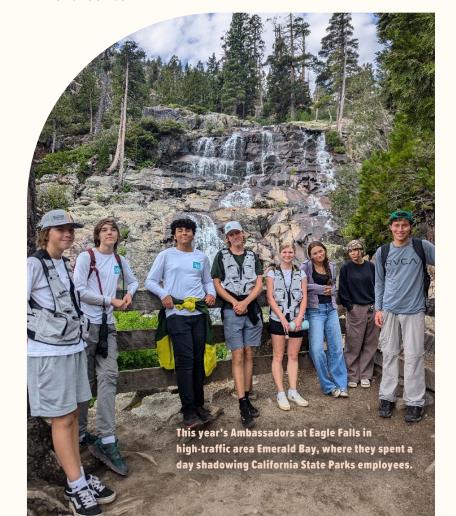
### **FUNDERS**

**CA Volunteers AmeriCorps** 

## Lake Tahoe **Ambassador Program**

Summer presented yet another successful season of training youth to act as protectors of Lake Tahoe. Our long term goal is to see these students become inspired to pursue conservation careers and return to protect the region after pursuing education in years to come. Though the program contracted in size slightly this year with less participants, we fundraised harder and created new programming to expand training opportunities that will strengthen skills in the field and provide staffing to increase recruitment efforts next year.

Over the course of 12 weeks, our staff of 13 Lake Tahoe high school and college students served at popular beaches and trailheads educating the public about best environmental practices and modeling good behavior. Throughout their term they attended 16 additional skill-building trainings on aspects of conservation such as trail maintenance, environmental restoration, and defensible space/fuel reduction related to wildfire. In addition, for the first time ever they completed independent term-long research projects in collaboration with local scientist mentors, backed by science research skills gained during a hands-on training with Headwaters Science Institute in Truckee, California. By the end of the term, students had put over 2,500 hours into protecting the environment in the Tahoe Basin.



# 2()24

#### SUCCESSES

**Students completed their** first-ever term long research projects paired with professional conservationist mentors

**Partnered with Headwaters** Science Institute to offer a science research training lead by professional scientists

Secured a two-year partnership with California State Parks aimed to inspire youth to pursue careers in conservation

#### BY THE NUMBERS

13 program participants

16 skill-building trainings outside regular workdays

Over \$250K secured in funding for the program

Self-reported strength of environmental communication skills increased by 26% for program members from start to end of the program

#### HOST SITES

**Tallac Historic** Site

**Commons Beach Taylor Creek** 

**Visitor Center** 

**64** Acres Skylandia

**Tahoe City** 

Kiva Beach **Kings Beach** 

#### **FUNDERS**

**Lake Tahoe Basin** Management Unit (LTBMU)

**North Tahoe** Community Alliance

**Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority** 

**Latrobe Fund** 

**Career Pathways/ Parks California** 









## **Community Engagement**

This year's community engagement efforts focused on expanding our topics and types of events to bring in new partners. For example, during our webinar series in April we met Jessica Jane Robinson, a filmmaker, activist, and superhero character that teaches youth environmental education. Then, we created a chance to engage faceto-face during the Wild and Scenic Film Festival on Tour where Jessica was a keynote speaker. In May, we met Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Hiker Riordan Cicciu, an environmental activist fundraising for nonprofits through outdoor experiences. While hiking the PCT in summertime, he raised over \$4 thousand to protect and restore the Sierra Nevada. Later that month, we taught the public about sustainable foraging on a wild edible mushroom walk with Luis Rubio-Aguilar.

September brought about another Great Sierra River Cleanup with partners hosting cleanups across the Sierra, and we also hosted our first ever Sierra Nevada regional Latino Conservation week facilitation. We used our website as a hub to list regional events and created free hike and paddle board events of our own in the Tahoe Basin.

Other initiatives included our Take Care Sierra Program. We expanded our working group partners and formalized a charter to strengthen efforts across the region. Then, we published English and Spanish rack cards with environmental messaging and mailed these to partners for public distribution. We also sat on regional and local committees such as the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition, Take Care Tahoe, and more.

#### SPRING BOUNTY DINNER

On April 22, 2024, in celebration of Earth Day, the Alliance hosted a Spring Bounty Fundraising Dinner at the historic Valhalla Tahoe. With the stunning backdrop of Lake Tahoe, guests were brought together and inspired through a silent auction, raffle, and a special screening of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour. The dinner was our first take at a semi-formal Alliance in-person fundraising event. Through the support of our community, in-kind donations, sponsorships, and volunteerism, we raised over \$14,000, making a lasting difference toward our work in conservation.

### **MEMBER GROUP**

This year, we also focused on expanding our membership base and deepening connections within the program. We dedicated time engaging with Member Groups to better understand their needs and strengthen relationships between Members and our other programs. To strengthen our conservation network we facilitated opportunities like encouraging Host Sites to become members. We also focused on providing technical assistance and capacity building for Member Groups. We did this by collaborating on events, co-writing grants, promoting Member Group initiatives throughout the community, sharing more Member updates in our communications, and more.

#### SUCCESSES

Connected with 2,000+ community members at 8 in-person events

Participated in over 40 environmental coalition meetings

**Drafted a new Take Care Sierra charter** to inform a regional coalition to brand and market the Sierra Nevada as a region worth protecting

**Developed and** researched a crossprogram database containing all Member Organizations and partners, and their **Alliance affiliation** 

### BY THE NUMBERS

**34** Take Care Sierra group members

**Increased digital engagement** in conservation topics by 600+ people

**Produced 2,000 rack cards** in English and Spanish containing environmental messaging, for public distribution

\$14K raised at the Spring **Bounty Dinner in celebration** of Earth Day

**Retention of 29 Member Group** organizations, with 5 new memberships







## **Advocacy**

The Sierra must have sustained and coordinated advocacy to maintain progress on climate adaptation and forest health goals. Unfortunately, state budgets and policies are greatly underfunded and lack support in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade region. To address this, every year the Sierra Nevada Alliance works with local, regional, and statewide partners to advocate for policies that enhance the communities and environment of the Sierra. Throughout the year, we shared information with our partners and the public about these policies and created multiple opportunities to make our collective Sierra voice heard through call to actions and public comment letters.

We continued to be a key partner and represent our Member Groups in the Power in Nature, Sierra Consortium, Green California, and California Watershed Network coalitions. We also lead the Sierra Nevada 30x30 Regional Working Group Initiative, hosted monthly Sierra Nevada 30x30 meetings, and supported the coordination of statewide and local 30x30 efforts (a global conservation initiative aimed at protecting 30% of the planet by 2030).

Our goal is to help create political landscapes conducive to protecting and sustaining climate and natural resources-focused programs and policies. In the face of a very challenging budget deficit this year, our collective advocacy efforts have helped protect the legacy and importance of the Habitat Conservation Fund and secure a Climate and Natural Resource Bond on the November ballot through Proposition 4, which the public voted to pass on Election Day. In addition, while the Wildlife Conservation Board suffered reductions in funding, we did protect more than \$200 million for WCB.

## 2024

#### SUCCESSES

We facilitated over **50** in person meetings with California legislators and leaders on Sierra Nevada's funding and policies needs and threats

Alongside our partners, we hosted a reception celebrating 20 years of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and our annual Sierra Day at the Capitol with approximately 70 participants in attendance representing over 45 organizations

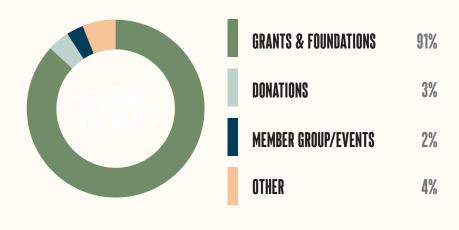
Our technical assistance to tribes across the region has helped secure over \$5 million of dollars in funding to support their key priorities and projects

## Financials One of the second report with

2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR

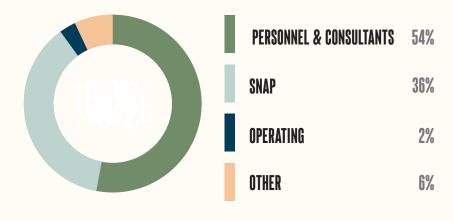
The information presented below is drawn from Sierra Nevada Alliance's financial statements audited by Schettler Macy & Associates. They are available at sierranevadaalliance.org/financials.

#### Revenue



Individual Donations :	\$56,563.71
Conference & Events:	\$49,945.58
Foundations:	\$47,133.83
Government Loans:	\$0.00
Grants:	\$2,241,238.78
In-Kind:	\$104,645.01
Member Group Fees:	\$9,954.55
Sales/Miscellaneous:	\$2,016.35
Total:	\$2,511,497.81

#### Expenses



Alliance Personnel & Benefits: \$1,291,857.18

Conference & Events: \$36,731.06

Consulting: \$41,887.50

In-Kind: \$104,645.01

Operating: \$46,212.71

SNAP (all): \$900,001.00

Travel & Training: \$32,613.86

Total: \$2,453,948.32



#### A MESSAGE FROM JODI SCHMITZ, FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR

The Alliance is pleased to share these financial reports to provide an honest and transparent picture of our financial health. To manage funds responsibly and effectively, short- and long-term revenue goals were set and expenses are closely monitored. Programs are fully funded, have an adequate cash reserve, and can provide competitive salaries for the valued team. This is possible thanks to generous supporters like you.

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## Friends of the Alliance

All of these accomplishments were made possible because of the support from caring conservation lovers like you. Your contributions support critical capacity building to do everything that we do. From keeping the lights on in the office to on-the-ground restoration that keeps our rivers, mountains, and waterways healthy, none of this would be possible without you. Thank you to every individual donor, business, foundation, sponsor, and partner who contributed to supporting our mission to protect and serve the Sierra from 2023-2024.

To join our Alliance of like-minded individuals dedicated to building a resilient Sierra Nevada region, please visit sierranevadaalliance.org/donate today.

#### **GRANTS**

**Bashaw Family Foundation** Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority Latrobe Fund Arntz Family Foundation **Tahoe Truckee Community** 

### **MATTERHORN PEAK** \$1,000 - \$4,999

of Counties Defenders of Wildlife

League to Save Lake Tahoe

Sierra Forest Legacy

Sierra Institute for Community & **Environmen** 

The Mining and Metallurgical Society

Yuba Water Agency John and Patty Brissenden Lake Tahoe Community College Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC)

Sierra Pacific Industries Stantec

#### **FREEL PEAK**

#### \$100 - \$999 Truckee River Watershed Council

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts Carstens, Black & Minteer LLP Forsgren Associates Pacific Crest Trail Association

Summit to Shore Chiropractic **Trout Unlimited Truckee** Houston Magmami & Associates

Collins Pine

Divided Sky

East Bay Municipal Utility District El Dorado Community Foundation Shute Mihaly & Weinberger LLP Sierra County Land Trust Truckee Donner Land Trust

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Cork & More **Edgewood Tahoe** 

Ernie's Coffee Shop Flatstick Pub Free Bird Chai

Gaialicious Boutique Golden Nugget Lake Tahoe

Jennifer Marshall and Chad Laurence Lake Tahoe AleWorX

Leigh DePeters Patagonia Outlet Reno

Prakash Kasirai and Laurie Flesher

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