

SIERRA NEVADA
CONSERVANCY



Working Together for a Better Sierra

2009–10 annual report



Convict Lake, Mono County

This report was designed to be viewed online with links to additional information including video and audio clips. Most of the links and videos are included on the attached CD.

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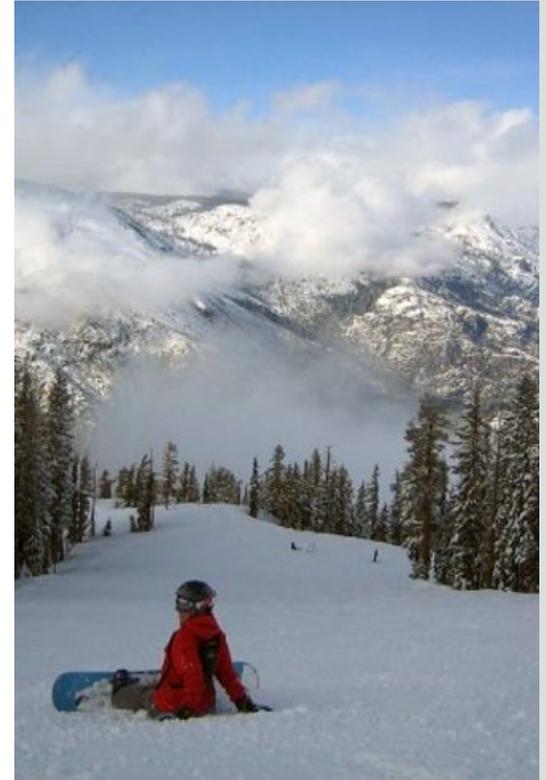




Snow Plants, Independence Lake

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Snowboarder at Bear Valley Ski Resort

Executive Summary



“Bridgeport Courthouse”, courtesy of Christian Pondella

As we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the creation of Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) in 2009-10, times were tough: the freeze on State bond funds continued through most of the year, nonprofit organizations working within the Sierra Nevada Region (Region) suffered an additional downturn in funding from private sources, SNC offices were closed and employees were furloughed three days each month, and local government entities dealt with serious budget issues of their own. In times like these, it’s especially good to have partners—partners who are working together for a better Sierra, the theme of the SNC’s 2009–10 Annual Report.

In spite of the difficult times faced by organizations working within the Region in 2009-10, much was accomplished. In September 2009, the SNC launched the first [Great Sierra River Cleanup](#) (GSRC) in partnership with the Coastal Commission’s Coastal Cleanup Day. The GSRC connected existing river cleanup events in the Region as part of a greater Sierra-wide endeavor and helped establish cleanups in watersheds where events had never before occurred. In all, 33 organizations held cleanups, utilizing over 3,500 volunteers—making this the largest volunteer event in the Region. More than 130 tons of trash was removed from rivers throughout the Region and the event attracted media attention across the Region with exposure in more than 40 different local newspaper, web, and radio outlets. Assembly Members Jim Nielsen and Ted Gaines both joined cleanups in their districts.

In October 2009, the SNC hosted its third annual Sierra-wide symposium; [Connecting the Dots](#). This year’s topic was forest health and rural economies. In order to ensure the highest level of participation possible, SNC chose a webposium format in which panel speakers were based in Auburn and addressed nine different local

meeting locations across the Sierra Nevada via web-based technology and it worked: 150 people participated across the nine local meeting locations. This event gathered local, state, and national experts, policy-makers, environmental, tribal, industry and community representatives to discuss improving watershed/forest resiliency and health by reducing the threat of wildfire while sustainably using forest “fuels” to create local jobs and economic resilience.

In the afternoon, groups of participants at each of the nine local meeting locations engaged in a facilitated discussion of the information presented and opportunities within their communities to identify common goals upon which to build projects with broad community support. In Oakhurst, participants continued to meet throughout the year with support from SNC staff. The group has formally adopted a mission, vision and objectives and has secured \$90,000 in funding from the USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grants program for small business incubation projects in Fresno, Madera and Mariposa Counties.

The webposium also served as the precursor to the [Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative](#) (SNFCI), an effort by the SNC to foster collaboration locally and regionally to support a cohesive, economically viable, and sustainable approach to reducing fire risk, creating jobs, and restoring and protecting watershed health. A SNFCI Resolution was developed and approved by the SNC Governing Board in June 2010. The resolution enables governmental entities, businesses and organizations that share these strategic objectives to participate. A SNFCI Coordinating Council will be created consisting of federal and state agencies, local governments, tribal entities, representatives from the environmental/conservation community and the private sector. The SNFCI will also promote, support and assist

local efforts aimed at meeting the intent of the Initiative. On-the-ground manifestations of the SNFCI include local collaborative groups such as the [Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group](#) and the Sustainable Forests and Communities Collaborative in Oakhurst. These groups are largely supported by SNC staff efforts in terms of meeting logistics, facilitation, and development efforts.

The SNC's Grant Program, funded through the voter-approved *Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)*, is one of the primary tools used by the SNC to support the work of its partners across the Region. In 2009–10 the SNC was only able to consider a small subset of grant applications due to a freeze on new grant awards and payments on existing grants resulting from the State's budget crisis. This moratorium lasted through Spring of 2010. However, in December 2009, the SNC Governing Board conditionally authorized 14 projects (see [Appendix A](#)) totaling more than \$10 million, subject to the availability of future bond funds. Luckily, subsequent bond sales generated enough funds to allow us to restart frozen projects and officially award the 14 conditional projects before the end of the year. In addition, twenty-four projects funded through the SNC's grant program were completed in 2009–10 as shown in [Appendix B](#).

In April 2010, fifty-four individuals from twenty-eight diverse organizations took part in the sixth annual Sierra Day in the Capitol—a day dedicated to raising awareness among State Legislators and their staff about the importance of the Sierra Nevada and the benefits the Region provides to the entire State of California. The SNC took the lead on coordinating the day's activities and developing the agenda and materials.

Sierra Nevada participants delivered their message to over 150 individuals using maps, [fact sheets](#), [project profiles](#), and other information. Sierra Day in the Capitol met with a positive response from Legislators and staff with some expressing surprise that such a diverse group of interests had come together to deliver a unified message about the importance of the Sierra Nevada.

Recognizing that tourism remains one of the Sierra Nevada's strongest sustainable economic contributors, the SNC has entered into a partnership with the Sierra Business Council (SBC) and the National Geographic Society to develop the [Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project](#). The project involves a Region-wide effort to engage local residents of the Sierra Nevada to describe and share the assets of the Region that make it attractive to a rapidly growing market of prospective visitors who desire authentic, sustainable tourism experiences.

During 2009–10, project partners collaborated to open the "Yosemite Gateway" (south central and eastern portion of the Sierra) for nominations, resulting in more than 400 completed postings on the web mapguide. At the beginning of June, the "Tahoe Emigrant Corridor" (central Sierra) nomination period was opened. Since the launch of the Web site in April 2010, prospective visitors from 79 countries have viewed the site and countless others have become aware through a multitude of media publications and broadcasts. The site is visited an average of 4,300 times per month.

In an effort to provide additional support to our partners working within the Region, the SNC launched a new effort in FY 2009–10, the Funding Team. This team of experienced SNC staff and consultants focuses on researching, identifying and pursuing outside funding sources and other resources to support the work of partner



"Heavy on Sherwin Fire", courtesy of Jonathan Cook-Fisher

Executive Summary

organizations and the SNC itself. The team also continues to disseminate a monthly update, begun in 2008–09, on state, federal and private funding sources to more than 1,100 individuals and organizations throughout the Region. By the end of 2009–10, the team had publicized more than 200 different funding-related opportunities.

In 2009–10, SNC's sponsorship program was able to support over a dozen partner organizations in their efforts to engage thousands of people in Sierra issues, with a financial investment of just under \$38,000. The events and activities supported this year spanned a wide range of topics, crossing many fields of interests and professions:

- 16th Annual Conference & Sierra Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP) Summit
- California Tribal Water Summit 2009: Tribal Water Stories
- 4th Annual National Conference on Grazing Lands
- Rediscovering Rangelands 5th Annual Summit
- California Cultural and Heritage Tourism Corps 6th Annual Symposium
- California Gateway Tour
- California Trails and Greenways Conference
- Great Valley Center Annual Conference
- 2010 California Preservation Foundation Statewide Conference
- Woody Biomass Utilization Workshop
- World Ocean Day
- Placer County Agriculture Tour
- "Your Future's at Stake" Tour

In all of these efforts, the SNC Governing Board continued to ably provide direction and guidance to the organization. Governing Boardmembers and staff were saddened by the departure of the Board's founding chairman, Mike Chrisman, as he left his position as Secretary for California Natural Resources Agency to become the Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Southwestern Partnership Office, but heartened by the election of B.J. Kirwan as the current Board Chair.

Accomplishing all of this required the continued dedication and hard work of SNC staff and more than a little help from our friends. Despite the challenges that the year brought, collaboration and determination carried the day. The SNC extends its appreciation to everyone who was a part of working together for a better Sierra in 2009–10.



Winter landscape at Sierra Valley

Message From the Chair

B.J. Kirwan, Chair of the Governing Board, Public Member

I am pleased to offer my first Chair's report for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) annual report. This year I had the honor of being selected to follow Natural Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman as the SNC's second Chair of the Governing Board. Secretary Chrisman's shoes are impossible to fill, but the work he did in leading the organization's efforts during our formative years gives us a great foundation on which to build. On behalf of the entire Board, I wish to extend my thanks to the Secretary for his outstanding leadership and commitment. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the SNC Board for the confidence they have showed in me by selecting me as the Chair.

Four years ago, I served on the Board committee responsible for overseeing the development of our [Strategic Plan](#). The statute creating the SNC provides clear direction on the subject matters on which to focus, the manner in which we are to approach these issues and the tools available to us. The Strategic Plan adopted in July of 2006 provided the details necessary to implement our program. Certainly there were plenty of ideas on how we should go forward—and plenty of questions about just how the SNC would carry out our mission to improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada. Other than a grants program, what could we do to “add value” in communities and watersheds throughout this 25 million acre Region?

In this report, you will read about many activities that are a partial answer to that question. Certainly the organization has developed the trust and confidence of many diverse parties in the Region and is actively involved in important partnerships that go well beyond the provision of grant dollars. I believe this is a testament to our outstanding staff and the cohesive manner in which our diverse Governing Board has provided overall guidance. Of course, none of

this would be possible without the many great partners doing the on-the-ground work in the Region.

As we enter a year in which we will be revising our Strategic Plan, it is an appropriate time to think about how we can best build upon what has been done to date. The Board has approved an approach which will develop the SNC's plan in the context of what others are doing in the Region, looking for the areas and approaches that will yield the greatest progress in carrying out our mission. Such an approach will allow us to identify “gap” areas to address as well as leverage our collective efforts to achieve even greater success.

One of the areas I hope to focus on is that of educating policy makers and the public throughout California on the many significant contributions that flow from the Sierra Nevada Region. Clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreation and tourism, carbon storage and the production of food and fiber are examples of the benefits that come from the Region. Helping those around the state understand that the sound stewardship of our forests and watersheds and maintaining the health of our communities is essential to preserving and enhancing these benefits is a top priority for me.

The debate that occurred as the Legislature considered a comprehensive water bond has been a loud wake up call for all us that care about the public's awareness of the importance of the Sierra. As early drafts of the bond emerged without any funding for the Region in which 65 percent of the state's water originates, it became clear that we have plenty of work to do. I am confident that we will be able to take on this challenge with the same passion and energy that has become the hallmark of the SNC. By engaging our partners in an effort to inform and educate, we can ensure that this Region is front and center in all such policy discussions in the future. Thank you.



B.J. Kirwan, Governing Board Chair

[▶ Message From the Chair \(00:05:42\)](#)



*"Snow and Fall Aspen", courtesy of
JoshMillerPhotography.com*

Executive Officer's Report

Jim Branham, Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

In the past year, our grant program went from a deep freeze to a slow thaw. Over the past year we have been able to restart previously authorized projects—and even award 14 new grants. To date, we have awarded nearly \$30 million of Proposition 84 grants in the past three years. We have awarded grants throughout the Region, to a diverse group of grantees covering a wide range of project types.

The success of the grant program is indeed rewarding, in particular in light of the challenges of the grant freeze and all that goes with it. Having funds to contribute to worthwhile projects and leveraging funding from others, is a critical part of what we do to be sure. But perhaps even more rewarding are the strong partnerships we have forged that are essential to us carrying our mission. It has indeed been another year of “Working Together for a Better Sierra.”

When we developed our Strategic Plan in 2006, we made it clear that we were an organization that views cooperation and partnership as core values. We understood that we could only accomplish our mission by working closely with those who shared similar goals and who had a better understanding of local needs than we did. We were committed to adding value and building on local and regional knowledge and efforts. But as they say, “talk is cheap”; so how are we doing?

I believe in the last year we have made significant progress in fulfilling the role envisioned when the Conservancy was created. While funding individual projects remains an important part of our program, addressing issues in a more comprehensive, collaborative manner provides an opportunity for even greater success. Through partnership efforts described elsewhere in this report, such as the [Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative](#), the [Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project](#) and the [Great Sierra](#)

[River Cleanup](#), we are adding value and assisting those within the Region to achieve shared objectives. Providing support and assistance to local collaborative efforts gives us the opportunity to achieve locally developed solutions to complex problems.

In the case of our Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative, parties that are used to seeing each other in the courtroom have agreed to try and find common ground in a different setting. The Initiative seeks to achieve the dual objectives of achieving ecologically healthy forests and creating sustainable local jobs and other economic activity. If we are to truly make progress in improving the environmental, economic and social well-being of our Region, creating healthy forests and communities is essential. To be sure, there will continue to be differences, but focusing on the items on which there is agreement gives us a starting point for a new direction. And as Yogi Berra would say, “if you don’t know where you are going, you might not get there.”

We are blessed to have a staff that understands the importance of this partnership role. This year we honored two staff members for “outstanding achievement”—Brandon Sanders for his efforts working with the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Working Group and Brittany Juergenson for her work coordinating the Great Sierra River Cleanup. They represent our team’s commitment to doing what it takes to get the job done. Likewise, having partners who are willing to “step up” even during these difficult economic times bodes well for the future of our Region.

On a personal note, I wish to thank Mike Chrisman who has served as our Board Chairman during these first four challenging and exciting years. Mike is a friend and mentor and was a great boss, and I am forever indebted to him for the opportunity I have to be a part of such a wonderful adventure.



Jim Branham, Executive Officer

[▶ Executive Officer's Report \(00:05:42\)](#)

The Region

The SNC is formed by all or part of twenty-two counties, over 25 million acres, and organized into six Subregions:

North Sierra: Modoc, Shasta, Lassen Counties

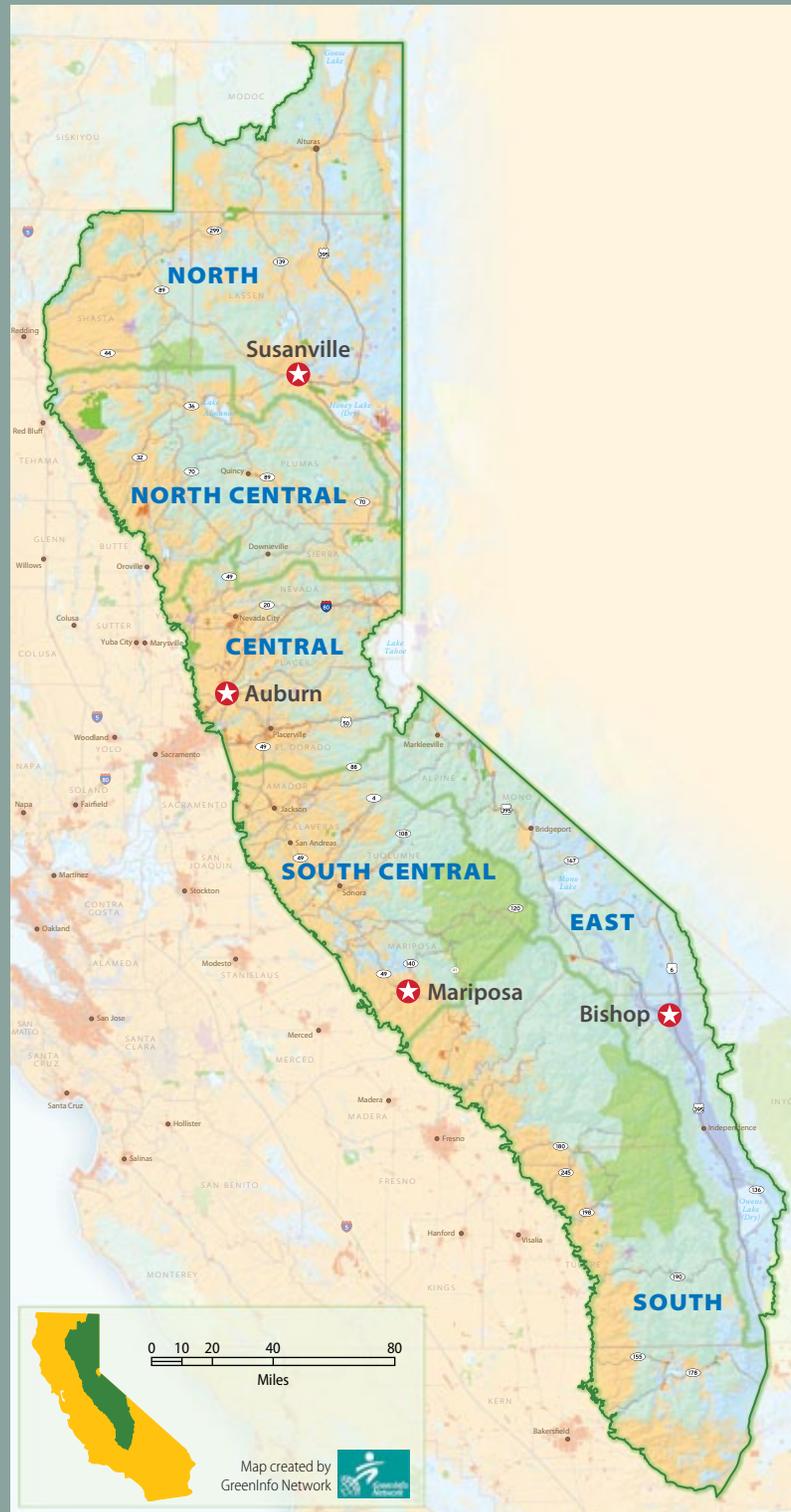
North Central Sierra: Tehama, Butte, Plumas, Sierra Counties

Central Sierra: Yuba, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado Counties

South Central Sierra: Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa Counties

East Sierra: Alpine, Mono, Inyo Counties

South Sierra: Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern Counties



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The SNC is a state agency created by bi-partisan legislation co-authored by Assembly Members John Laird and Tim Leslie and signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2004 ([statutes](#)). It was created with the understanding that the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Region and its communities are closely linked and that the Region would benefit from an organization providing a strategic direction. The SNC was charged with a broad mission and seven program goals to be accomplished through a variety of activities in collaboration and cooperation with partners.

Mission

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California.

Program Goals

The SNC works with nonprofit, tribal, and government partners at all levels by providing funding for local and regional projects and offering technical assistance and other support for collaborative projects. The SNC's activities support the seven program goals:

- Increased opportunity for tourism and recreation in the Region;
- Protect, conserve and restore the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical and living resources;
- Aid in the preservation of working landscapes;
- Reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfire;

- Protect and improve water and air quality;
- Assist the regional economy; and
- Enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

The Sierra Nevada is home to a wealth of resources, including the people, organizations, and agencies whose endeavors are focused on protecting and improving the Region. As you'll read in the following pages, over this past year, the SNC has continued to expand its partnerships through new collaborative efforts and a stronger spotlight on Regional initiatives.

Sierra Nevada Region's Top Ten Facts

1. Covers 25 millions acres or 25 percent of the state of California.
2. Provides California with two-thirds of its water.
3. Supplies 15 percent of California's energy needs from hydroelectric power generation.
4. Includes the highest peak in the contiguous United States—Mt. Whitney at 14,496 feet.
5. Is home to almost half of California's plant species.
6. Is home to 60 percent of California's animal species.
7. Is the only place you'll find the world's largest living thing—the Giant Sequoia.
8. Removes more carbon from the air per forest acre than the Amazon forest.
9. Hosts more than 50 million visitors per year.
10. Supplies up to 50 percent of California's annual timber yield.



The Great Sierra River Cleanup



The Great Sierra River Cleanup

In 2009 the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) launched the very first [Great Sierra River Cleanup](#) (GSRC)—a volunteer event aimed at removing trash from rivers and watersheds throughout the entire Sierra Nevada Region. The event was held in partnership with the Coastal Commission's Coastal Cleanup Day, thus serving to encourage good stewardship on rivers from their sources to the sea.

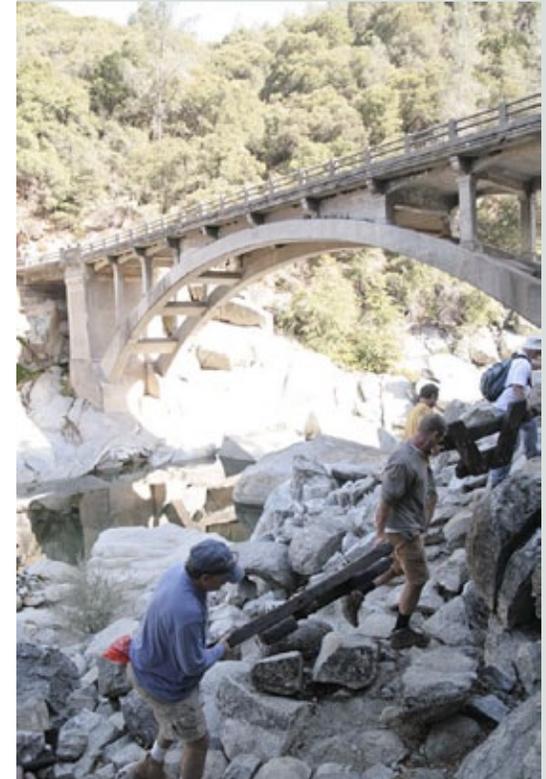
There have been many individual river cleanups held each year within the Sierra Nevada, but never before had there been an effort to coordinate and unify these cleanups on a Region-wide scale. The GSRC connected these existing events as part of a greater Sierra-wide endeavor and helped establish cleanups in watersheds where events had never before occurred. Two training sessions were held in the summer of 2009 to help guide new cleanup coordinators and provide new ideas to coordinators who had been holding cleanups for years.

Then, in September of 2009, 33 organizations held cleanups as part of the very first GSRC. These groups recruited over 3,500 volunteers—making this the largest volunteer event in the Region—and partnered with a huge number of agencies, businesses, recreation clubs, schools, churches, environmental groups, and community service clubs to haul in more than 130 tons of trash from rivers throughout the Region. Cleanups were held in almost every county in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's service area and covered 13 of the Region's major rivers. The event attracted media attention across the Region with exposure in more than 40 different local newspaper, web, and radio outlets.

Assembly Members Jim Nielsen and Ted Gaines both joined cleanups in their districts to show their support for the SNC and to recognize their local volunteers and cleanup coordinators for their commitment to good stewardship of

the watershed. The partnership with these two legislators was so positive that efforts were made early in 2010 to reach out to other Sierra Nevada legislators for the 2010 cleanup. Six members of the Legislature agreed to serve as honorary co-chairs of the 2010 event when Assemblyman Jim Nielsen and Assemblyman Ted Gaines both re-committed their support and were joined by Assemblyman Tom Berryhill, Senator Dave Cogdill, Assemblywoman Connie Conway and Assemblyman Dan Logue.

In early 2010 efforts to increase participation in the second annual GSRC began. Organizations holding cleanups in their local watersheds as part of the Region-wide event jumped from 33 to over 60 and are spread across all 22 counties in the SNC's service area.



The Great Sierra River Cleanup

[▶ Great Sierra River Cleanup 2010 \(00:04:44\)](#)
Jim Branham, Executive Officer, SNC;
Ted Gaines, Assembly Member

Connecting the Dots

A Symposium on Wildlife, Forest Health, and Sustainable Rural Economies

On October 29, 2009 the SNC hosted its third annual Sierra-wide symposium; [Connecting the Dots](#). This year's topic was forest health and rural economies. In order to ensure the highest level of participation possible, SNC chose a webposium format in which panel speakers were based in Auburn and addressed nine different local meeting locations across the Sierra Nevada via web-based technology. Each panel was a moderated discussion created to get at the real issues and provide practical solutions and suggestions, providing uncensored conversation among experts with wide and varied experience, priorities and perspectives.

This event gathered local, state, and national experts, policy-makers, environmental, tribal, industry and community representatives to discuss how to create cohesive and collaborative working groups and projects, with the end goal of improving watershed/forest resiliency and health by reducing the threat of wildfire while sustainably using forest "fuels" to create local jobs and economic resilience.

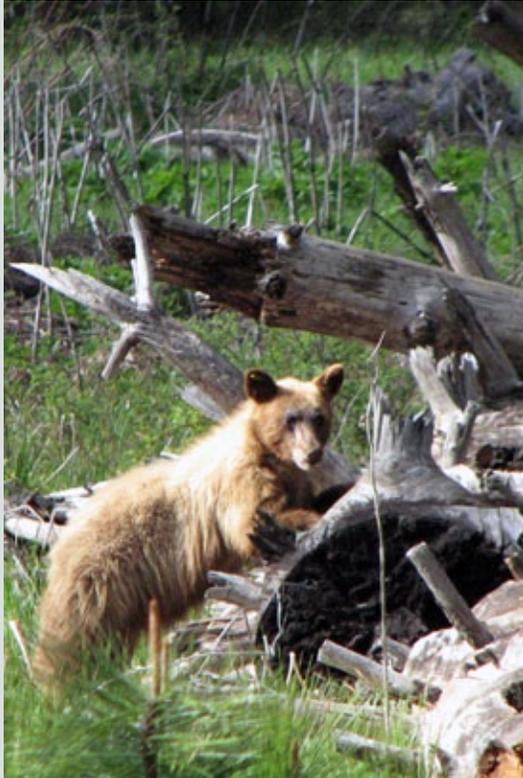
The webposium explored existing on-the-ground projects that are successfully using collaborative and cooperative processes in the forests and communities in their area. Speakers discussed the economic devastation that Sierra communities are facing in terms of both environmental and economic pressures, projects in which economic and environmental benefits are mutual outcomes, existing conditions, trends, funding opportunities and priorities, and what policy "course-corrections" might be needed to successfully protect our resources, reduce uncharacteristic fire threat and build resiliency into our environment and local economies.

Groups of participants at each of the nine local meeting locations then engaged in a facilitated discussion of the information presented and opportunities within their communities to identify common goals upon which to build projects with broad community support that will 1) protect both natural and built environments from the devastation of catastrophic wildfire, 2) improve and maintain forest health, and 3) provide new, sustainable economic benefits to these rural communities.

Attendance was strong, with a total of approximately 150 participants across all nine local meeting locations. After the webposium, videos of the webcast panel discussions were posted on the SNC Web site. The SNC gathered feedback from each of the local discussions, compiled it, and made it available to all participants and the public. The findings and recommendations developed by each local group were reviewed to determine how to best support local efforts being made to improve watershed/forest health and resiliency, reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire, and provide for economic development opportunities in the rural communities of the Sierra Nevada.

One immediate outcome of the webposium was in Oakhurst, where participants decided to keep meeting as a collaborative group. Almost one year later, this diverse and active group, now referred to as the Sustainable Forests and Communities Collaborative, has formally adopted a mission, vision and objectives, and has secured funding from the USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grants program in the amount of \$90,000 for small business incubation projects in Fresno, Madera and Mariposa Counties.

The webposium also served as the precursor to the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative launched by the SNC later in the year, which is described in the next section.



Bear

Historically, the Sierra Nevada Region has been challenged when addressing forest management, as myriad interests and perspectives come into play. Moving beyond traditional arguments by shifting focus to mutually agreeable principles will allow the Region to emerge as a national leader in collaborative forest management.

The [Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative \(SNFCI\)](#) is a coordinated effort among federal and state agencies, local governments, tribal entities, environmental/conservation organizations and the private sector, to improve the long-term environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is fostering collaboration locally and regionally in an effort to support a cohesive, economically viable, and sustainable approach to reducing fire risk, creating jobs, and restoring and protecting watershed health.

Successful implementation of this Initiative will result in protecting water quality and increasing natural water storage in the Sierra; protecting and enhancing key habitats for a variety of threatened and endangered species; preserving and creating long-term, family wage jobs in Sierra communities; reducing air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions from large damaging fires; and maximizing the sequestration of carbon in Sierra Forests.

In order to successfully implement this Initiative, the SNC will provide leadership, coordination, monitoring and reporting on its success. A [SNFCI Resolution](#) was developed and approved by the SNC Governing Board in June 2010. The Resolution enables governmental entities, businesses and organizations that share these strategic objectives to participate. A SNFCI Coordinating Council will be created consisting of federal and state agencies,

local governments, tribal entities, representatives from the environmental/conservation community and the private sector. The first charge of the Coordinating Council will be the creation of an implementation Plan for the purpose of guiding and monitoring progress over time. The Plan will establish measurable outcomes for the Initiative and identify a process for monitoring success. By identifying needs and opportunities, the Plan will assist in strategic investment in the Region.

The SNFCI will also promote, support and assist local efforts aimed at meeting the intent of the Initiative. Specific land management prescriptions, economic development opportunities and other activities are best determined through a collaborative process that develops outcomes consistent with the needs of the local forests and communities. The SNC will work to assist in local efforts designed to address these issues. The Initiative will have two interrelated aspects:

- a Region-wide focus that addresses policy issues, investment needs and relevant science and research; and
- local collaborative efforts that address actions needed to achieve the desired outcomes at a more local level.

On-the-ground manifestations of the SNFCI include local collaborative groups such as the [Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group](#) and the [Sustainable Forests and Communities Collaborative](#). These groups are largely supported by SNC staff efforts in terms of meeting logistics, facilitation, and development efforts.



Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solution (CHIPS)

Grant Program

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) Grant Program, funded through the voter-approved *Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)*, is one of the primary tools used by the SNC to support the work of its partners across the Region.

Since its first year of grantmaking in 2007, the SNC has authorized more than 190 individual grants to nonprofit, tribal and governmental partners. These grants, totaling roughly \$30 million, have been used to improve water quality, reduce the risk of wildfire and other natural disasters, protect important natural resources and habitat, promote sustainable recreational use (when tied to resource conservation), improve resource management practices, protect working farms and ranches and address climate change impacts across the 22 counties comprising the Sierra Nevada.

In 2009–10 the SNC was only able to consider a small subset of grant applications due to a freeze on new grant awards and payments on existing grants resulting from the State's budget crisis. The moratorium lasted from December 2008 through Spring of 2010. At the request of our partners, however, the SNC took the unprecedented step in December 2009 of conditionally authorizing 14 projects totaling more than \$10 million, subject to the availability of future bond funds. Luckily subsequent bond sales generated enough funds to allow us to restart frozen projects and officially award the 14 conditional projects before the end of the year (see [Appendix A](#) for a list of the 14 projects awarded in 2009–10).

Now that the SNC grant program is back in full swing, Californians are beginning to reap the benefits of these and other important efforts. Four such projects completed during 2009–10 are highlighted below (see [Appendix B](#) for a list of projects completed in 2009–10).

Hazel Meadow Habitat Restoration Project

The Hazel Meadow Habitat Restoration Project is situated at Hazel Creek, the inlet of the Jenkinson Lake reservoir, one of the main sources of drinking water for El Dorado County. The lake and surrounding watershed are also a major recreation area with camping and day use areas, boating, and high visitor and equestrian use. The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) partnered with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Department of Fish and Game, business and community members, Boy and Girl Scout troop members, schoolchildren, Sly Park stakeholders and EID personnel and their families to restore this heavily impacted wet/dry meadow into a model wetland habitat with a boardwalk and viewing platform. These structures are essential to maintain the sustainability of the restored meadow and water quality, habitat diversity, recreation and educational benefits for the thousands of people who visit the park each year and the people of the west slope of the Sierra Nevada who depend upon Jenkinson Lake as a clean, reliable water source.

[▶ Hazel Meadow Habitat Restoration \(00:03:26\)](#)
Dena McCann, El Dorado Irrigation District



*Hazel Meadow Habitat Restoration Project
at Jenkinson Lake*

Old Mammoth and Mill City Fuels Reduction

The SNC provided financial support to the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District and Inyo National Forest, in close coordination and with the support of Mono County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, University of California Santa Barbara's Valentine Preserve, Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation, Mammoth Lakes Community Water District, CAL Fire and Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council, to reduce fuel loads and minimize fire risk on more than 100 acres of public land within and adjacent to the community of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County. The project employed a mix of fuel reduction methods, defensible space inspections, and chipping services to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and protect the community, water quality and habitat and recreational values in and around the Mammoth Lakes Basin. As a by-product of the fuel reduction work, some of the wood was shared with community members for heating purposes and the rest was chipped and used in the forest and around municipal buildings for mulch and erosion control.

Combie Reservoir Mercury Removal Assessment

The SNC supported a partnership with the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) and scientific experts to assess the feasibility of removing mercury-laden sediment from Combie Reservoir on the Bear River in Nevada County and extracting elemental mercury from the sediment for safe disposal. The completed assessment allows NID to seek funds for implementation of the sediment removal and cleaning project. Mercury contamination of stream and reservoir sediment is a major problem in the central Sierra Nevada; this project serves as a model for other potential remediation projects as well as providing direct public health benefits to people served by the Bear River watershed.

Independence Lake Acquisition

The SNC was one of many partners involved in a project led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to purchase 2,325 acres of land surrounding Independence Lake, which straddles Sierra and Nevada Counties. As a result of this acquisition, the watershed for this pristine, 2.5-mile-long alpine lake will be managed to protect a unique California amenity, which contains the only remaining native population of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in the State. Partner funding from the federal government, California Wildlife Conservation Board, California Natural Resources Agency, and others contributed to bring to fruition the protection of this important resource while ensuring clean water and public access for recreational opportunities for the people of California, neighboring Nevada and beyond.

- ▶ [Independence Lake Acquisition \(00:02:07\)](#)
[Mike Sweeney, Director, The Nature Conservancy;](#)
[Mike Connor, Director of Real Estate, The Nature Conservancy](#)

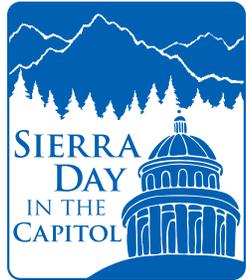


*Before and After,
Old Mammoth and Mill City Fuels Reduction*



*"Squaw Creek in Summer",
courtesy of ElizabethCarmel.com*

Sierra Day in the Capitol



On April 14, 2010 fifty-four individuals from twenty-eight diverse organizations took part in the sixth annual Sierra Day in the Capitol—a day dedicated to raising awareness among State Legislators and their staff about the importance of the Sierra Nevada and the benefits the Region provides to the entire

State of California. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) took the lead on coordinating the day's activities and developing the agenda and materials.

Sierra Day participants convened in the Governor's Council Room and began the day by hearing from Assemblyman Jim Nielsen and Senator Fran Pavley regarding the issues they believe are important to the Region and the State. In the afternoon, thirteen teams of enthusiastic Sierra Nevada supporters descended on legislative offices and delivered their message to over 150 individuals using maps, [fact sheets](#), [project profiles](#), and other information.

To provide a more lasting reminder of the importance of the Sierra Nevada to California, the SNC unveiled a [Sierra Nevada water display](#) across from the Governor's Office, which should remain there for several months. In addition, during the week leading up to the event and for the week after, the walls outside the Governor's Office were lined with large original photographs on loan from artists throughout the Sierra, which depicted some of the many benefits the Region provides to the State. The day ended with a reception at the Stanford Mansion near the Capitol.

Sierra Day in the Capitol met with a positive response from Legislators and staff with some expressing surprise

SIERRA DAY SPONSORS

- Bear-Yuba Partnership
- California Cattlemen's Association
- California Forestry Association
- California Rangeland Trust
- California Ski Industry Association
- California Trout
- Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
- Northern Sierra Partnership
- Pacific Forest Trust
- Planning and Conservation League
- Regional Council of Rural Counties
- Sierra Business Council
- Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council
- Sierra Environmental Water Caucus
- Sierra Nevada Alliance
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Southern Sierra Partnership
- The Sierra Fund
- The Trust for Public Land

that such a diverse group of interests had come together to deliver a unified message about the importance of the Sierra Nevada.

News of the day was carried on local radio and in the Capitol Alert.



Top: "Got Water?" display at the State Capitol with Joan Keegan, Paolo Maffei, and Jim Branham

Bottom: Photographs of the Sierra Nevada Region on loan from artists throughout the Sierra

Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project

Geotourism is tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place—its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture and well-being of its residents.

Recognizing that tourism remains one of the Sierra Nevada's strongest sustainable economic contributors, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has entered into a partnership with the Sierra Business Council (SBC) and the National Geographic Society to develop the Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project. The Project involves a step-by-step Region-wide effort to engage local residents of the Sierra Nevada to describe and share the assets of the region that make it attractive to a rapidly growing market of prospective visitors who desire authentic, sustainable tourism experiences. The nominated assets are then reviewed for accuracy, truthfulness, authenticity, and quality by a local "geocouncil" made up of representatives from each Region of the Sierra Nevada as it is opened for a nomination period. Completed entries are then checked by National Geographic and posted on the interactive Web site at www.sierranevadageotourism.org.



During 2009–10 project partners collaborated to open the "Yosemite Gateway" (south central and eastern portion of the Sierra) for nominations. During the nomination period, over 800 nominations from the public were entered into the system, resulting in more than 400 completed postings on the web MapGuide. At the beginning of June, the "Tahoe

Emigrant Corridor" (central Sierra) nomination period was opened. Over 150 nominations were received by the end of 2009–10 and more are expected by the close of the nomination period at the end of August 2010. Local support for the project has been overwhelming from the beginning and currently includes endorsements from more than 50 communities, organizations, and local, state and federal government agencies.

The principles of Geotourism are perfectly aligned with the mission and programs of the SNC. The SNC's investment in and support of the Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project has helped to strengthen Regional identity and provide valuable exposure to communities and businesses throughout the Region that rarely get the attention they deserve. Since the launch of the Web site in April 2010, prospective visitors from 79 countries have viewed the site and countless others have become aware through a multitude of media publications and broadcasts. The site is visited an average of 4,300 times per month.

The project creates an easy venue for visitors to research and plan very customized itineraries through use of the Internet. Ultimately a traveler can use the site to plan a trip, as well as find the information to make reservations for each stop along the way. The implications of an economic boost from this site for the Regional businesses and communities of the tourist industries in the Sierra Nevada are huge, since visitors will have a chance to view what is offered through a nation-wide and internationally viewed Web site that carries the National Geographic brand name.

The SNC looks forward to working with partners and community members as the South and North Regions of the Sierra Nevada open for nominations and the partners conduct further outreach to local communities.



Bourne Cottage at Empire Mine State Historic Park

▶ [Geotourism \(00:01:17\)](#)
[Jim Dion, Director of Sustainable Destinations,](#)
[National Geographic Society](#)

In an effort to provide additional support to our partners working within the Region the SNC launched a new effort in FY 2009–10, the Funding Team. This team of experienced SNC staff and consultants focuses on researching, identifying and pursuing outside funding sources and other resources to support the work of partner organizations and the SNC itself.

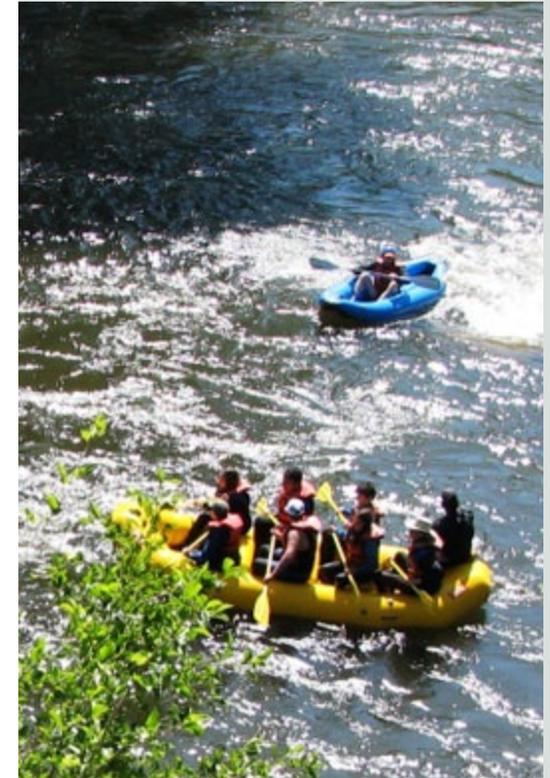
The Funding Team continues to disseminate a monthly update with information on state, federal and private funding sources relevant to nonprofit, government and tribal partners in the Sierra. The update is sent to more than 1,100 individuals and organizations throughout the Region and is then posted on the SNC Web site ; [Current Funding Opportunities](#). By the end of 2009–10 the team had publicized more than 200 different funding-related opportunities, from actual grant and loan programs to grantwriting and other educational workshops and trainings to improve partners' fund development capabilities.

The Funding Team heard from one satisfied customer who used information from the monthly updates to successfully apply for grants totaling \$317,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the National Forest Foundation and Pacific Gas & Electric. The service consistently receives positive feedback from stakeholders around the Region.

▶ [Elizabeth Soderstrom, Senior Director of Conservation, American Rivers \(00:03:26\)](#)

The team also actively seeks outside funding for SNC projects and initiatives, such as the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI), the Great Sierra River Cleanup and the National Geographic Geotourism MapGuide Project. We also assist collaborative groups, local government entities, nonprofit organizations and others with individual funding requests for projects that support the SNC's mission and program areas.

This work took on added importance as a resource for stakeholders in the Region during the freeze of State bond funds and bond-funded projects during most of 2009 and early 2010.



Rafting on the Kern River



Mural on building, Auburn

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) developed the sponsorship program to help organizations in their efforts to inform people and communities within the Region and across the State about issues important to the Sierra Nevada. Supporting our partners in this way helps us to achieve our mutual goals of raising awareness and encouraging ongoing discussions of Region-wide issues. This year SNC's sponsorship program was able to support over a dozen partner organizations in their activities, engaging thousands of people in Sierra issues, with a financial investment of just under \$38,000.

The events and activities supported this year spanned a wide range of topics, crossing many fields of interests and professions:

16th Annual Conference and Sierra Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP) Summit

The Sierra Nevada Alliance conducted a 3-day workshop bringing together organizations and agencies working within the Region. A highlight of the workshop was a discussion among Region stakeholders about lessons learned from planning and implementing IRWMPs, new challenges and issues facing water management in the Sierra, and sustainable funding and next steps for IRWMP efforts.

California Tribal Water Summit 2009: Tribal Water Stories

The 2009 California Tribal Water Summit was an unprecedented convening of decision-makers from tribal, state, federal, and local governments exploring common

interests, discussing policy issues, identifying solutions, and promoting dialogue. The SNC helped capture tribal water stories from participants at the summit for inclusion in the State Water Report and statewide distribution.

4th Annual National Conference on Grazing Lands

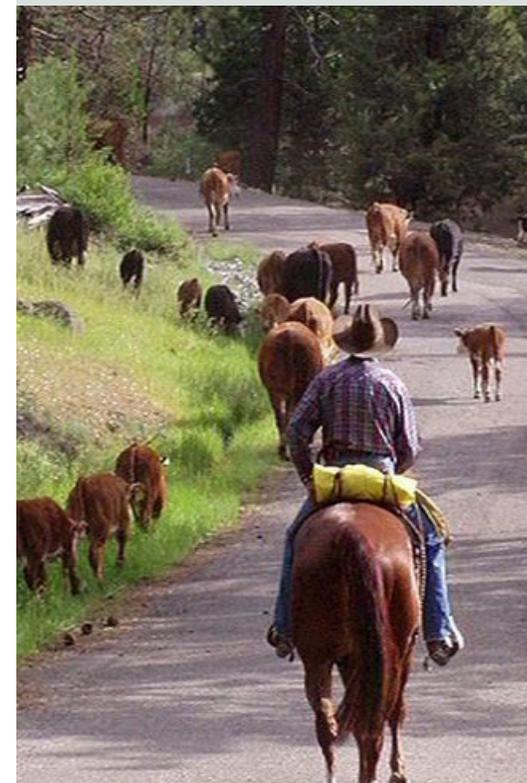
The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative hosted a conference to heighten awareness of the economic and environmental aspects of grazing lands, emphasizing the benefits of grazing lands and avenues for technical assistance to retain and improve them.

Rediscovering Rangelands 5th Annual Summit

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition's (CRCC) 5th annual summit focused on current issues impacting ranchers in California including the economic crisis, grazing for conservation, climate change, and ecosystem services. The summit provided a forum for trust building and the development of the CRCC's action plan.

California Cultural and Heritage Tourism Corps 6th Annual Symposium

The California Cultural and Heritage Tourism Symposium sessions helped groups and individuals in the identification of cultural assets in their communities and extended a call to action. The event promoted the importance of preservation for quality of life, tourism dollars and revenue sources for local government.



UC Davis—Passion for the Land Project

Supporting Our Partners in Building Sierra Awareness

California Gateway Tour

Shasta Cascade Educational Foundation's mobile California Welcome Center, a vinyl-wrapped Airstream trailer, is travelling to various events around California distributing collateral marketing material for California tourism, including highlights of the Sierra Nevada Region, and the various sponsoring partners of the program. This is the second year of travelling for the Welcome Center following a very successful debut in 2008–09.

California Trails and Greenways Conference

The Recreational Trails Conference Foundation hosted in partnership with California State Parks a conference providing land and recreation program planners, trail administrators and managers, trail advocacy groups, trail builders, and other trail enthusiasts with a forum to network while learning about new techniques and opportunities. The Sierra Nevada hosts thousands of miles of recreational trails that are enhanced, expanded, created, and maintained by our partners.

Great Valley Center Annual Conference

The Great Valley Center conference theme—Valley Up: Ideas, Innovation, and Inspiration—focused on regional change and real life solutions that would help the Central Valley's economy as it begins to rebound. The conference provided an opportunity to connect Valley issues and solutions with the Sierra Nevada.

2010 California Preservation Foundation Statewide Conference

The California Preservation Foundation held their annual conference for the first time in the Sierra Nevada Region. The workshops and sessions focused on linking cultural, historic, and natural resources with community development and a sense of place.

Woody Biomass Utilization Workshop

The University of California Cooperative Extension organized a two-day workshop to improve the baseline understanding of existing woody biomass utilization infrastructure. Woody Biomass, which is the trees, limbs, brush, needles, and other woody material from our forests, can be used for energy production, fuel, and manufactured products. Existing capacity and the potential to develop new capacity were explored.

World Ocean Day

The SNC sponsorship in this Star Eco Station event consisted purely of participation in a day of fun interactive games, lessons, art projects, science experiments, and more addressing watershed, river, and ocean issues resulting from pollution, climate change, ocean acidification, and harmful fishing practices.



Hiker

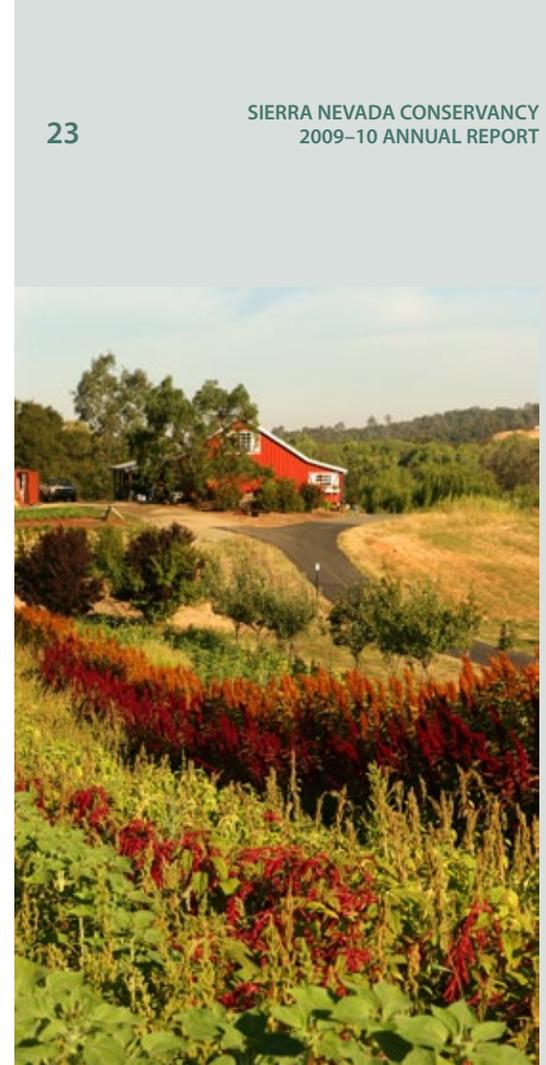
Placer County Agriculture Tour

The Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD) provides an annual agricultural tour for local and regional policy/decision makers centered around current issues faced by the Sierra Nevada-based industry. The 2010 tour focused on agricultural education and job training programs.

“Your Future’s at Stake” Tour

The California Beef Cattle Improvement Association gathered academic, industry, cattle producers, and interested partners from across the state and neighboring states, for a tour to share and learn about the highlights of working landscapes from innovative and pioneering cattle producers. Livestock is the primary agricultural commodity of the Region.

Opportunities for partnerships in the 2010–11 fiscal year have already begun to appear and the SNC will continue to support our partner organizations through our sponsorship program.



*Placer County Agriculture,
courtesy of WaydeCarrollPhotography.com*

Budget and Fiscal Activity



Cross country skier, Lunch Creek, Yuba Pass

As shown in the table on page 23, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) spent \$4.1 million of the \$4.5 million appropriated for its operations in 2009–10. The SNC did not fully expend its appropriation from both the Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF) (\$90,058 in savings) and Proposition 84 Bond funds (\$231,640 in savings). These savings were in addition to a \$263,388 reduction in the amount appropriated to the SNC for state operations—in accordance with [Executive Order S-13-09](#) issued in July 2009 requiring that state civil service employees be furloughed three days each month through June 30, 2010. The savings to the ELPF and Proposition 84 Bond funds were largely driven by the following factors:

- **Executive Order S-01-10:** dated January 22, 2010 was issued ordering departments to begin implementing a Statewide Workforce Cap to realize an additional 5 percent in salary savings over their base salary savings. The SNC was required to save a total of \$87,768. Actual savings were \$133,927, obtained through attrition, eliminated overtime, and a 33 percent reduction in temporary help expenditures.
- **Proposition 84 Support:** due to an unfilled Proposition 84 position and the continued freeze on bond-funded projects, the SNC realized additional savings in the Proposition 84 support budget.

Budget and Fiscal Activity

Table: Fiscal Year 2009–10 Budgeted and Actual Expenditures

STATE OPERATIONS

Personnel Services	Budgeted	Actual
Salaries and Wages	\$ 1,641,967	\$ 1,487,747
Salary Savings	- 39,729	—
Staff Benefits	436,749	468,114
Personnel Services, Totals	\$ 2,038,988	\$ 1,955,860

Operating Expenses & Equipment

	Budgeted	Actual
General Expense	\$ 271,771	\$ 171,628
Travel—In State	100,000	64,009
Travel—Out of State	2,612	—
Training	30,000	8,645
Facilities	257,181	335,240
Utilities	10,411	9,734
Information Technology	67,265	60,350
Contracts—External	428,146	507,191
Contracts—Interagency Agreement	875,270	796,469
Other Items of Expense	25,904	16,202
Pro Rata (Control Agency Costs)	182,562	182,562
Proposition 84 Admin Support	169,145	—
Operating Expenses & Equipment, Totals	\$ 2,420,167	\$ 2,152,030

State Operations, Totals **\$ 4,459,155** **\$ 4,107,890**

EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING SOURCE

State Operations	Budgeted	Actual
Environmental License Plate Fund	\$ 3,981,727	\$ 3,862,102
Proposition 84	477,428	245,788
State Operations, Totals	\$ 4,459,155	\$ 4,107,890

Local Assistance Grants

	Budgeted	Actual
Proposition 84	\$ 15,448,000	\$ —
Local Assistance Grants, Totals	\$ 15,448,000	\$ —

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Expenditures	Budgeted	Actual
State Operations, Totals	\$ 4,459,155	\$ 4,107,890
Local Assistance Grants, Totals	\$ 15,448,000	\$ —
Expenditures, Totals	\$ 19,907,155	\$ 4,107,890



“Quail’s Clutch,” courtesy of Jeff McLean

Governing Board



Old Tree

The Governing Board is made up of 16 members; 13 voting and three non-voting members. The voting members include five Governor’s appointments, two legislative appointments, and six Local Government representatives. Each of the six Subregions are represented by a member of the Board of Supervisors from a county within the Subregion (selected by the counties), serving two-year terms. Listed below are the members representing the Board through June 2009.

The non-voting members serve as liaison advisors as follows: one representative of the National Park Service, designated by the United States Secretary of the Interior; one representative of the United States Forest Service, designated by the United States Secretary of Agriculture; and one representative of the United States Bureau of Land Management, designated by the United States Secretary of the Interior.

Governor’s Appointees

- B. J. Kirwan, Chair..... Public Member
- Mike Chrisman, Chair (2009) Secretary,
Natural Resources Agency
- Tom Sheehy Designated Representative,
Chief Deputy Director,
Department of Finance
- Bob Kirkwood Public Member
- Todd Ferrara, Vice Chair..... Designated Representative,
Deputy Secretary for External Affairs,
Natural Resources Agency
- Governor’s Appointee..... Vacant

Legislative Appointees

- John Brissenden..... Speaker of the Assembly
- Bob Johnston Senate Rules Committee

Local Government’s Appointees

North Sierra Subregion

- Brian Dahle Supervisor, Lassen County

North Central Sierra Subregion

- Bill Nunes..... Supervisor, Sierra County
- Kim Yamaguchi (2009) Supervisor, Butte County

Central Sierra Subregion

- Hal Stocker..... Supervisor, Yuba County

East Sierra Subregion

- Donald Jardine Supervisor, Alpine County

South Central Sierra Subregion

- Paolo Maffei..... Supervisor, Toulumne County
- Steve Wilensky (2009) Supervisor, Calaveras County

South Sierra Subregion

- Jon McQuiston Supervisor, Kern County

Non-Voting Liaison Advisors

- Rob Macwharther..... U.S. Forest Service
- Beth Pendleton (2005–09)..... U.S. Forest Service
- Kathy Hardy Bureau of Land Management
- David Graber Ph.D. National Park Service

A Special Thanks to Mike Chrisman

During the first four years of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) existence, Natural Resources Agency Secretary Mike Chrisman served as the Chair of our Governing Board. During that time Mike provided steady and strong leadership as our organization took its formative steps. Mike stepped down as Chair in early 2010, as he left his position as Secretary. His commitment to the SNC was substantial and among the accomplishments achieved during his tenure are the following:

- Constitution of the Governing Board and development of an initial budget;
- The hiring of an Executive Officer and other staff to meet the day to day activities of the organization;
- Creation of a 5-year Strategic Plan to guide the organization in carrying out its mission;
- Establishment of a headquarters office and three satellite offices to serve the 25 million acre Region;
- Implementation of the Proposition 84 Grant Program, which has awarded nearly \$30 million in grant funds for a wide range of projects throughout the Sierra Nevada Region.

Prior to his service as Chair, Mike was instrumental in the creation of the SNC, working within the Schwarzenegger administration to see the Governor's goal fulfilled. Coordinating with Assemblymen Tim Leslie and John Laird, he played a key role in the successful passage of Assembly Bill 2600, culminating with the Governor's signing of the bill in September 2005.

As a lifelong Californian Mike has a great appreciation and solid understanding of the issues facing the Sierra Nevada Region. His experience as a community leader, public official and rancher/farmer was invaluable in helping us deal with the issues of setting up a new organization in this large, rural area of California.

Mike often starts a sentence with the term, "at the end of the day." With his departure as Chair of our Board, it is safe to say that "at the end of the day" Mike Chrisman has been instrumental in establishing the SNC as a successful organization, an important part of Mike's legacy as Natural Resources Agency Secretary. Of course he will be missed by all of us at the SNC, but we wish well in his new endeavor and thank him for his outstanding service to the people of California.



B.J. Kirwan and Mike Chrisman

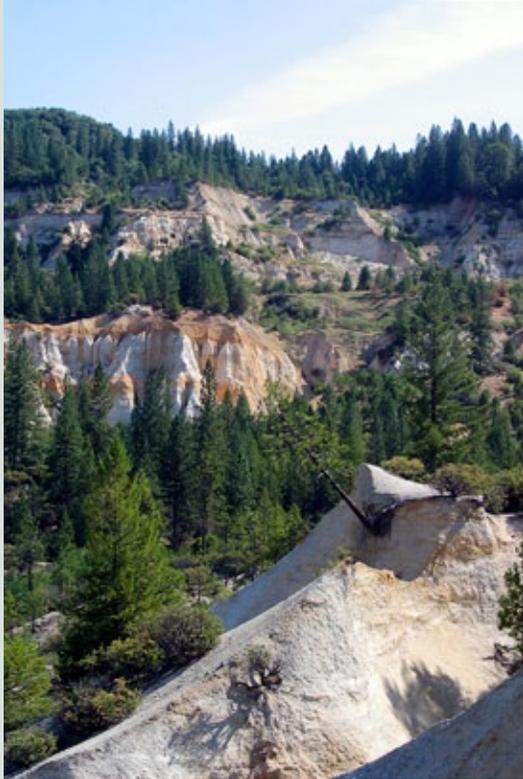


"Boats at June Lake"
©2010 David Chudnov, FreeLargePhotos.com

Appendix A

Projects Awarded in Fiscal Year 2009–10

TITLE OF PROJECT	SUBREGION	TOTAL
Atkinson-Piasecki Ranch Conservation Easement	South	\$ 314,300
Cold Stream Canyon Acquisition	North Central	1,000,000
CRT Conservation Easement Grant Request—Goodwin Ranch	North Central	920,000
CRT Conservation Easement Grant Request—Maddalena Ranch	North Central	1,000,000
Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project	Central	610,000
Independence Lake Watershed Acquisition	Region-Wide	1,000,000
Iron Canyon Fish Passage Project	North Central	1,000,000
Lemon Canyon Ranch Acquisition	North Central	500,000
Meadow Ranch	North Central	500,000
Oakvale Ranch Easement Acquisition	South Central	1,000,000
Pearce Family Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition	North Central	300,000
Purchase of the of Gold Hill Ranch and Wakamatsu Colony Site	Central	1,000,000
Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Appraisal and Acquisition Program (Packer Saddle Property)	North Central	423,200
Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Appraisal and Acquisition Program (Volcano Property)	North Central	777,200
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 10,344,700



Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park
©2010 Roy Tennant, FreeLargePhotos.com

Appendix B

Projects Completed in Fiscal Year 2009–10

TITLE OF PROJECT	SUBREGION	PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Susanville Fuel Reduction and Watershed Restoration Project	North	384 acres treated for fuel reduction, generating 4,900 bone dry tons of material for local biomass-to-energy facility
South Knob Sagebrush Steppe Watershed Restoration Project (Ash Valley)	North	286 acres treated and restored, including 6 miles of fencing and establishment of 19 long-term monitoring transects
Central Modoc River Center Capacity Building Project	North	1,400+ students, teachers, adult volunteers and others educated about how to protect the Pit River watershed
McClelland/Eagle Lake Ranch Appraisal	North	1,100-acre ranch appraised for future conservation easement acquisition
Fillipini Ranch Riparian Restoration	North Central	24 acres of riparian habitat protected
Merrill Davies Stream and Meadow Restoration	North Central	115 acres of meadow and 3,500 feet of streambank restored
Lemon Canyon Ranch	North Central	990 acres of forest habitat, more than 50 acres of wet meadow and montane riparian habitat and more than 6 miles of perennial and seasonal streams protected under a conservation easement
Defensible Space Chipper Program	North Central	281 acres representing 211 homes in wildland-urban interface treated to reduce threat of fire
Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Acquisitions—Biehl Parcel on Lusk Meadow	North Central	.021 acre acquired on a sensitive meadow
Yuba River Wildlife and Recreation Area Construction and Acquisition Project	Central	745 acres appraised for future acquisition to protect 2 miles of critical salmon and steelhead spawning grounds
Inventory and Geographic Reference of Firefighting Water Resources	Central	694 acre-feet of water resources suitable for fire-fighting identified, catalogued and marked with fire-resistant signs
Green Fields of Golden Sierra	Central	75 percent reduction in water use and 2,000 pound reduction in fertilizer and pesticide use on new artificial surface made from recycled tires
Hazel Creek Restoration Project	Central	1.4-acre wet meadow improved and 1-acre new meadow area created
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Concept and Master Planning	East	150 stakeholders provided oral and 950 stakeholders provided written input to plan; trails master plan completed
Old Mammoth and Mill City Fuels Reduction Project	East	100+ acres of public land treated to reduce threat of fire; 800+ properties inspected for defensible space requirements

Continued next page



Eagle, courtesy of Randi Keppeler

Appendix B

Projects Completed in Fiscal Year 2009–10



Elk, courtesy of yathin.com

TITLE OF PROJECT	SUBREGION	PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Oakvale Ranch Appraisal	South Central	4,005-acre ranch appraised for future conservation easement acquisition
Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions Project (CHIPS)	South Central	13 people trained in vegetation management techniques and employed in forestry sector
Central Sierra Regional Smart Growth Conference	Region-Wide	200 people educated about strategies and concepts associated with sustainable growth
Stewardship Contracting Workshops	Region-Wide	280 people educated about uses/benefits of stewardship contracting
Environmental Benefits of Grazing Education Tour and Video	Region-Wide	655 people educated about environmentally sustainable grazing practices; 675 educational DVDs distributed to stakeholders in the Region
California Rangeland Trust Sierra Nevada Rangeland Assessment Project	Region-Wide	18 ranch properties prioritized based on natural, historical and economic resources at risk; 4 out of the 5 top-ranked properties pursued for permanent protection
Sierra Nevada Trails and Recreation Initiative—Project	Region-Wide	13 miles of trail treated to reduce erosion and sedimentation; 5,376 volunteer hours used valued at \$104,885
Sierra Nevada Classroom Project (SNCP)	Region-Wide	Copies of Sierra ecosystem and habitat guides distributed through the Offices of Education in 17 Sierra counties
Northern Sierra Carbon Cooperative—Ecosystem Services Inventory	Region-Wide	Forest inventorying methodologies tested on 2 forested ranch properties; both projects included in the CCAR registry; \$5.2 and \$7.8 million of potential credits identified
NUMBER OF PROJECTS COMPLETED	24	

