

Robert Collier

From: Robert [robert@sierranevadaalliance.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:41 PM
To: 'Robert Collier'
Subject: Sierra Climate Change News February 2009



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Sierra Climate Change News

February 2009

*Including Campaign
Updates, Taking Action
for the Sierra, Relevant
News Articles, Useful*

Reports and Resources and Cool Websites and Blogs

Campaign Updates

VOTE FOR THE SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE
<http://www.rivernetwork.org/forms/vote-millercoors-grants> &
HELP US WIN \$10,000!

The Sierra Nevada Alliance's South Lake Tahoe Volunteer Monitoring Project has been chosen as a finalist in the River Network/MillerCoors Watershed Protection Grant contest and needs your support! This project is a water quality monitoring effort to assess creeks and rivers at specific monitoring sites to evaluate the health of the Upper Truckee Watershed, which flows to Lake Tahoe.

Vote for the Sierra Nevada Alliance at:
<http://www.rivernetwork.org/forms/vote-millercoors-grants>

This project is one of eight projects selected in six states across the nation **and the only project protecting a California watershed**. From February 10 to March 6, the public is encouraged to vote for their favorite project out of eight finalists. The four proposals with the most votes will each receive \$10,000

Alliance Events

Feb. 28 Wild and Scenic Film Festival, 7- 10 p.m., Lake Tahoe Community College, South Lake Tahoe, CA. You can buy your tickets at the door or go to the [website](#) for more information.

March 29 Wildflower Walk, 1-4 p.m. Coloma, California. For more info, contact Kay Ogden 530-542-4546 ext. 304.

Sep. 18-20, 16th Annual Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference. Mark your calendar! Check back at our [website](#) for more details!

Other Events

from MillerCoors towards the proposed project. The other four finalists will each receive \$1,000.

Why monitor water pollution in South Lake Tahoe Rivers? Lake Tahoe, the jewel of the Sierra, is a national treasure where one drop of its crystal blue water resides for an average of 700 years! The Upper Truckee River is the largest input into Lake Tahoe and is home to vibrant meadows, clean mountain streams, and precious wildlife. Monitoring water quality helps track trends in water pollution and stream conditions over time and helps us understand what is happening upstream before water enters Lake Tahoe.

By voting for the Sierra Nevada Alliance's Monitoring Project, you will be helping us re-start a previously bond-funded project that mobilizes local volunteers to monitor their own watershed health. In 2008 over 30 volunteer monitors provided over 500 hours to collect data at 15 rivers and creeks in South Lake Tahoe. Due to the budget crisis in the state of California, the funding for the 2009 season has been cut and without funding from an alternative source, this project will not continue.

Visit the website below and vote for the Sierra Nevada Alliance today! Please pass this along to your colleagues, friends, and family and encourage them to vote to help improve the health of the Upper Truckee Watershed and Lake Tahoe!

Vote for the Sierra Nevada Alliance at:

<http://www.rivernetwork.org/forms/vote-millercoors-grants>

This grant program was made possible by MillerCoors, which is partnering with River Network to support water sustainability initiatives in states where the company has breweries. MillerCoors shares our commitment to help communities understand, protect and restore rivers and watersheds. As one of the nation's top brewers, MillerCoors supports the United Nations CEO Water Mandate, and has designated water conservation as one of its key sustainable development priorities. MillerCoors is committed to improving its own water use by constantly striving to reduce the amount of water used to brew its beer.

State Confirms Oak Woodlands Carbon Law

The California Oaks Foundation (COF) has long stated that, according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the conversion of oak woodlands to non-forest use requires analysis and proportional mitigation for carbon biological emissions. Now, the state is preparing to officially codify COF's carbon dioxide perspective as it relates to CEQA. On January 8, 2009, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) released draft regulatory guidance for the analysis and mitigation for the potential effects of greenhouse gas emissions. OPR has stated that this analysis and mitigation of carbon biological emissions are

March 11 California Climate Action Team Public Meeting- Update on California agencies activities regarding climate change. This will be [webcast](#).

March 17-18 *Symposium on Coping with Climate Change in Sierran Systems: Incorporating Climate into Land and Resource Management and Developing Adaptation Strategies*, Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, Incline Village, NV. The symposium will summarize current info about the documented and predicted effects of climate change in the Sierra Nevada ecoregion, explore the strategic and conceptual framework for incorporating climate into land and resource management in the Tahoe Basin, present and discuss plausible adaptation strategies to cope with climate change. Please register by March 6 on their [website](#) or contact Nancy Starr at 530-621-5552.

April 9 ARB Chair Seminar Series "Towards a New Deal in Climate Policy: A Consumption Based Approach for Mitigation of GHG Emissions." Speaker Klaus Hubacek, University of Leeds. 1-3:30 p.m. Sierra Hearing Room, Cal/EPA, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA. It will also be webcast. Go to the [website](#) to find more.

integral to CEQA review.

Two projects where COF has raised oak woodland CO2 emissions issues are currently subject of CEQA lawsuits filed by local organization, Rockville Trail Estates in Solano County and Santa Margarita Ranch in San Luis Obispo County. The failure of these projects to meaningfully analyze or mitigate substantiated oak woodland CO2 emissions impacts does not bode well for them in court.

The California Air Resources Board has information about Forestry Greenhouse Gas Protocols on their site: http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/forestry/forestry_protocols/forestry_protocols.htm. Through that site you can also find information on recent forest protocol workshops, meetings, and public hearings.

For additional information about the draft CEQA guidelines, please visit the OPR website: <http://opr.ca.gov/index.php?a=ceqa/index.html>.

Apply NOW for the Stewardship & Education Assistant position with the Sierra Foothill Conservancy in Mariposa, CA!

Position Title: Stewardship & Education Assistant

Organization: Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Location: Mariposa, CA

Site Supervisor: Bridget Fithian, Mariposa Program Manager

Sierra Foothill Conservancy: Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC), a local land trust serving the foothill portions of Fresno and Madera counties and all of Mariposa County, was founded in 1996 with the mission to conserve open space and protect wildlife, ranching, and natural beauty for present and future generations. In its 13 years of service, SFC has protected over 16,000 acres of open space and working landscapes through the use of fee title purchases and conservation easements. SFC is a well known organization throughout the Sierra-Cascade Region for its significant land conservation achievements.

Program Description: SFC has protected over 6,000 acres of land with conservation easements in Mariposa County. SFCs' Conservation Easement Stewardship Program includes documenting properties and building land stewardship relationships with landowners. Guided by area experts, our Mariposa Educational Program provides Mariposa and surrounding communities with opportunities to learn about and engage with their natural environment.

Position Description: The Stewardship and Education Assistant will work with the Mariposa Program Manager in the Mariposa office located 40 miles south west of Yosemite National Park. The main responsibilities of the AmeriCorps Member will be to assist with the Mariposa Conservation Easement Stewardship Program and the Education Program. This will include assisting with baseline documentation, ecological assessment and monitoring of properties, and recruiting volunteers to assist with monitoring and assessment. The Stewardship and Education Assistant will work in the Mariposa Education Program recruiting volunteers, coordinating hikes and classes, and developing educational partnerships with area schools.

For more information please contact Morgan Fessler, Sierra Nevada Alliance: (530)-542-4656 ext.312, morgan@sierranevadaalliance.org. You can also visit our website at:

<http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/programs/program.shtml?type=pgm08> or visit the AmeriCorps nation site at www.americorps.org.

All submissions are confidential. People of color are encouraged to apply. The Sierra Nevada Alliance and AmeriCorps are equal opportunity employers.

Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth Executive Assistant Job Opening!

Title: Tulare County Citizens For Responsible Growth (TCCRG) Executive Assistant

Location: Tulare County

About TCCRG: Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth is a diverse group of local residents who came together early in 2006 due to concerns about the direction of growth in Tulare County. Reflecting the expressed values and wishes of our county's residents, we are working to ensure that future growth protects our local economy, communities and natural resources.

Position Description: TCCRG seeks an individual to provide organizational and administrative support for the volunteer based TCCRG organization. The position requires a highly organized and self directed individual who shares TCCRG's vision of responsible growth policies providing for a healthy, sustainable future for Tulare County. Applicant must be computer literate, able and willing to work from home, and have own computer and transportation.

Responsibilities: The TCCRG Executive Assistant will be responsible for coordinating and supporting all aspects of TCCRG's campaigns regarding the Tulare County General Plan Update, the proposed Yokohl Ranch development, and other issues which the organization may address. Responsibilities will include: scheduling meetings; maintaining organizational schedules and files; drafting/editing correspondence; directing media and public inquiries; organizing outreach activities; tracking County CEQA documents, issuing regular newsletters and email alerts; updating and maintaining TCCRG database; updating website and power point presentations; assisting in developing fact sheets and promotional materials.

Compensation: This is a part-time independent contractor position offering \$1,200 a month for approximately 80 hours per month, 6-month minimum commitment. Position will be re-evaluated after two months with a possibility of increased responsibility and compensation.

To Apply: The application process is open immediately. Interviews will be arranged with qualified candidates as soon as possible. Send a 1-2 page cover letter and resume to: TCCRG tccrg@earthlink.net (email preferred). Address: P.O. Box 1058, Three Rivers, CA 93271. Applicants are encouraged to call Patricia Hickson at the Sierra Nevada Alliance with any questions: 530-542-4546 ext. 313.

Taking Action for the Sierra

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Funding Website and Newsletter

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has begun compiling information on funding opportunities, workshops, and resources that are applicable to the Sierra. To view this information, follow the link

http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/other_current_funding.html.

In addition, the SNC began circulating an electronic funding newsletter on January 23, 2009. Like the website, this newsletter provides the most current information on funding opportunities, workshops, and resources available in the Sierra. Sign up for the e-newsletter at <http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/listserv.html> and check the "Current Funding Opportunities" box at the bottom of the screen.

Water and Climate Change Policy Internship Position Available at the Sierra Nevada Alliance

The Sierra Nevada Alliance is searching for an intern to work on different Alliance projects to protect and restore Sierra lands, water, wildlife and rural communities. The position assists the Water and Climate Change Program staff in achieving the four major goals of the campaign:

1. Educating resource managers and the public on Sierra climate change and inspiring communities to incorporate climate change impacts and adaptation into local resource management plans;
2. Representing Sierra interests in state water policy forums to adapt to climate change and protect Sierra resources;
3. Promoting urban and rural water conservation and Sierra natural water storage for water reliability, flood management and natural resource preservation;
4. Integrating regional water planning and encouraging equal protection of Sierra watershed health, water supply and water quality.

To find out more please contact Marion Gee Water and Climate Change Program Associate by email: marion@sierranevadaalliance.org, by phone: 530-542-4546 ext. 320, or check out our website at <http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/>.

Relevant News Articles

Local

[Drought could be nightmare for nature](#) by Michael Gardner, San Diego Union-Tribune, Feb. 24. The punishing drought that threatens to disrupt California's economy could also exact a heavy toll on the environment, from the Anza-Borrego Desert to the mountains surrounding Lake Tahoe. While drastic water cuts to farms and cities have attracted national attention, the combination of drought and delivery shortfalls may be just as painful for fish and wildlife.

[A rabbit on the run](#) by Eric Bailey, Los Angeles Times, Feb. 12. A third of the pika populations in the mountains of Nevada and Oregon have become extinct in the last century as temperatures warmed. Those that remain in the Western states are found 900 feet further upslope. By May federal authorities must determine whether the pika warrants listing as a federally protected endangered species.

[Keeping Sierra lands wild](#) by Peter Fimrite, SFGate, Feb. 2. Perazzo Meadows is the first major success of the Northern Sierra Partnership, formed in 2007 as part of an unprecedented campaign to take 65,000 acres of land out of private hands.

[Both sides sound off on proposed coal plant in Ely, NV](#) by Scott Sonner, Associated Press, Feb. 6. Environmentalists say a water-sucking, carbon-emitting, coal-fired power plant shouldn't be built anywhere in the world, let alone in Nevada's high desert. But, union workers say they desperately need the 2,500 jobs the project would create.

[Angora Tahoe restoration plan released](#) by Adam Jensen, Tahoe Daily Tribune, Feb. 18. A proposal by the U.S. Forest Service to restore 2,700 acres of land burnt by the Angora fire won't try to recreate the forest that existed before the blaze. Instead, the Angora Ecosystems Restoration Plan aims to move the forest closer to historic, fire resistant conditions.

State

[California's drought may be worst on state record](#) by Seth Nidever, The Hanford Sentinel, Feb. 24. This could be the worst drought year in California history, according to the Department of Water Resources. That dire prediction is part of DWR's new drought Web site, which came online last week.

[Response to drought is dry run for response to climate change](#) by Richard Rominger and Michael Dimock, San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 11. California's unfolding drought may prove to be the worst in recorded history. How we respond to the drought will offer us a template of how to respond to global climate change.

[California farms and vineyards in peril from warming](#) by Jim Tankersley, Los Angeles Times, Feb. 4. California's farms and vineyards could vanish by the end of the century, and its major cities could be in jeopardy if Americans do not act to slow the advance of global warming, according to Secretary of Energy Steven Chu.

[Dry winter foretells big crisis](#) by Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee, Feb. 8. The Sierra snowpack is just 60 percent of what would be considered normal and, barring a late-season onslaught of storms, water agencies will impose sharp cutbacks.

[Smallest fall run of Chinook salmon reported](#) by Jane Kaye, San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 19. The Pacific Fishery Management Council, a federal body that regulates commercial and sport fishing, estimated that only 66,286 adult salmon returned to the Sacramento River to spawn. Six years ago, the peak return was 13 times higher.

[San Diego's plan hits water savers, hogs evenly](#) by Rob Davis, Voice of San Diego, Feb. 12. Even San Diegans who have torn out their lawns, planted drought-tolerant landscaping and scrimped on irrigation will have to cut their water use if supplies are reduced in July. The city's new plan calls for residents who have conserved to cut water use by the same percentage as massive water users such as CalTrans.

[Greenest eco resort in the world coming to California](#) by Brian Merchage, treehugger.com, Jan. 31. The "greenest" ecoresort in the world is set to be built in Monterey, California this February. The resort, called Monterey Bay Shores, will be built on 29 acres of a sand dune that was previously destroyed by 60 years of mining.

National

[EPA expected to regulate carbon dioxide](#) by John M. Broder, New York Times, Feb. 18. The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to act for the first time to regulate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that scientists blame for the warming of the planet. The environmental agency is under order from the Supreme Court to make a determination whether carbon dioxide is a pollutant that endangers public health and welfare.

[Plants take a hike as temperatures rise](#) by Megan Levardo, Physorg.com, Feb. 10. According to new research from the University of Arizona in Tucson, plants are flowering at higher elevations in Arizona's Santa Catalina Mountains as summer temperatures rise. Summer temperatures in the region increased by 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit from 1983-2004.

[We need to start budgeting water like we budget our expenses](#) by Margaret Clube Giblin, Center for Progressive Reform, Feb. 11. Freshwater resources are an increasingly scarce commodity, particularly in the arid West. Even without the complicating effects of climate change, demand on water from an increasing population would intensify water scarcity. This article suggests that we use economic theories of budgeting to reduce our water demand.

[Energy secretary throws himself into climate debate, guns blazing](#) by Colin Sullivan, New York

Times, Feb. 26. In his first interview as a Cabinet secretary earlier this month, Energy Secretary Steven Chu warned of a pending climate catastrophe that could see California's farm industry vanish and its snowpack nearly eliminated. A Californian, Chu said his home state is in serious trouble over the next century unless action is taken to halt greenhouse gas emissions.

[Why the Obama climate change plan won't work](#) by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Feb. 23. President Obama's proposed cap-and-trade plan for reducing greenhouse gasses will not achieve the reductions quickly enough to prevent devastating climate change, according to an analysis posted by PEER.

[Dark days for green energy](#) by Kate Galbraith, New York Times, Feb. 3. Even though wind and solar power have been growing at a blistering rate in past years, more recently the credit crisis and the broader economic downturn have caused the installation of wind and solar power to plummet.

[Why Obama's plan to help renewable energy may backfire and aid big-coal](#) by David Morris, AlertNet.com, Feb. 6. Obama's plan for a "national smart" grid needs closer examination: an expanded grid would be anything but smart.

[Bottled water consumes a lot of energy](#) by Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee, Feb. 25. Bottled water is up to 2,000 times more energy intensive than tap water and consumes the equivalent of 32 million to 54 million barrels of oil annually in the U.S. Moreover, bottled water consumption in the nation has been estimated at 33 billion liters a year, roughly half that of carbonated beverages.

International

[Wildfires closely linked to climate change](#) by YubaNet.com, Feb. 10. Abrupt climate change during a phase of forest expansion can lead to an increase in wildfires, a new study shows. The conclusions of the research underline the major environmental role played by climate change during a period of accelerated warming in determining broad-scale fire activity.

[Ocean acidification is happening faster than thought](#) Charles Q. Choi, Scientific American. A study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that compiled eight years of measurements of acidity, salinity, temperature, and other data from the northwestern tip of Washington state found that average acidity rose more than 10 times faster than predicted by climate simulations.

[United on climate change: Obama's Chinese revolution](#) by Geoffrey Lean, The Independent, Feb. 8. Barack Obama is to invite China to join the U.S. in an effort by the world's two biggest polluters to stop global warming from running out of control.

[Experts cite lower threshold for warming crisis](#) by Randolph E. Schmid, San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 24. Researchers report that "increases in drought, heat waves and floods are projected in many regions and would have adverse impacts, including increased water stress, wildfire frequency and flood risks at less than (1.8 degrees) of additional warming above 1990 levels."

[Global warming underestimated](#) by BBC News, Feb. 15. Professor Chris Field, a leading climate scientist, recently claimed that the severity of global warming over the next century will be much worse than the International Panel on Climate Change has predicted.

[Irreversible does not mean unstoppable](#) by RealClimate.org, Feb. 1. This post gives hope in response to the IPCC's most recent report titled "Irreversible climate change because of carbon emissions."

[Scientists plan emergency summit on climate change](#) by David Adam, The Guardian, Feb. 9. Climate experts from across the world will gather in Copenhagen next month to agree a stark message to policy makers, which they hope will break the political deadlock on efforts to curb rising temperatures.

[Scrap carbon trading](#) by Oscar Reyes, The Guardian, Feb. 1. This flawed system has failed to

curb emissions. It's time to tackle the broader economic system that led to the climate crisis. [Biofuels may speed up not slow global warming](#) by Mira Oberman, Physorg.com, Feb. 15. Once deemed to be the answer to oil, biofuels have become increasingly controversial because of their impact on food prices and the amount of energy it takes to produce them. They could also be responsible for pumping far more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than they could possibly save as a replacement for fossil fuels.

Useful Reports and Resources

[Bird species and climate change](#) by Climate Risk provides a global survey of the climate threat to birds by compiling hundreds of individual studies to resolve the larger picture of impacts. The analysis finds compelling evidence that, with 0.8 degree C of warming having occurred over the past century, strong negative impacts on birds are already taking place.

[Birds and Climate Change: Ecological Disruption in Motion](#), a Briefing for Policymakers and Concerned Citizens on Audubon's Analyses of North American Bird Movements in the Face of Global Warming is an overview of studies done by the Audubon Society. For example, the report found that up to 110 of 310 California native birds will experience significant reductions in their geographic range in the next several decades due to climate change. These reductions will be part of massive range shifts to all the state's bird species caused wholly or in part by climate change.

[Institute for Local Government Best Practices Framework Available](#)- The California Climate Action Network's Best Practices Framework is a guide that offers suggestions for local action in ten climate leadership opportunity areas, including energy efficiency and conservation, green building, storing and offsetting carbon, and waste reduction and recycling. For more information on the Climate Action Network, visit their [website](#).

[Climate change and California's public health systems](#) by Louise Bedsworth of the PPIC assesses the readiness of California's public health institutions to cope with the changes that will accompany climate change. While many agencies in the state have the protection of public health as a goal, this report focuses on agencies that provide direct services to residents, namely the California Department of Public Health and the network of local health agencies. The report is based off of a survey of local health officials that shows that the health officers believe climate change poses a large risk to human health, but they lack the information and resources necessary to manage that risk.

[A roadmap for U.S.-China cooperation on energy and climate change](#) by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change and the Asia Society presents a vision for stronger bilateral collaboration on energy and climate change between the U.S. and China. This report offers recommendations for a new comprehensive program for cooperation between the United States and China that focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and thus mitigating the potentially catastrophic effects of climate change.

[New directions in climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation assessment: a summary of a workshop](#) is a briefing on a panel of lead U.S. authors of the IPCC Working Group II report, federal agency representatives, and other interested individuals to discuss next steps in the development of a needs-driven research agenda on climate change vulnerability, impacts, and adaptation. This paper first summarizes the opening remarks of workshop leaders, and then reviews the panel's resulting discussions. While the report is not a consensus paper, it does identify themes that were expressed by several of the workshop participants.

Cool Websites and Blogs

[Carbon dioxide emissions map released on Google Earth](#). With a few clicks on Google Earth, anyone can now view pollution from factories, power plants, roadways, and residential and

commercial areas for their state, county or per capita. Individuals also can easily see how their county compares to others across the nation. A team led by scientists at Purdue University developed the maps and system, named Vulcan after the Roman god of fire. The system quantifies all of the carbon dioxide emissions that result from burning fossil fuels such as coal and gasoline. You can view the new application at <http://www.purdue.edu/eas/carbon/vulcan/GEarth/>. There is also a tutorial available on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu-s9IHPGmM>) that provides an overview of how the software works.

[DWR's drought website](#) has useful information pertaining to the California's depleted water supply for 2009. This site has the most up-to-date news on the current water conditions, as well as resources for communities and water agencies struggling to grapple with their local water issues. For 2009 DWR has also created a water bank that will purchase water from willing sellers, primarily upstream of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, then transfer those resources via the State Water Project or Central Valley Project to water supplies at risk of experiencing shortages during the next year. For more information on the water bank, head to <http://www.water.ca.gov/drought/bank/>.

The purpose of the Sierra Nevada Alliance Climate Change Electronic Newsletter is to provide you with relevant information, news, media, events and resources combed from local, state, national and international sources regarding Climate Change. If you have any suggestions or contributions, please feel free to email them to marion@sierranevadaalliance.org.

Climate Change Campaign Background

Climate change is occurring now. The Sierra's precious resources including flora, fauna and rural communities are feeling the impacts now and will continue to be negatively affected unless we make greenhouse gas emissions reduction and adapting resource management practices to climate change high priorities. The Sierra Nevada Alliance is committed to educating the general public, resource planners and community leaders of the Sierra about climate change impacts while empowering them to take the necessary actions to reduce emissions and adapt to this new future. For more info, check out our [Climate Change Campaign Website](#).

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