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From: Marion Gee [marion@sierranevadaalliance.org]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 1:24 PM
To: 'marion@sierranevadaalliance.org'
Subject: Sierra Climate Change News November/December 2008



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Sierra Climate Change News November/December 2008

*Including Campaign Updates,
Taking Action for the Sierra, Relevant News Articles, Useful
Reports & Resources and Cool Websites and Blogs*

Campaign Updates

Funding Opportunity!

Sierra Nevada Conservancy grants are available! Applications for the SNC FY 08-09 second round of Strategy Opportunity Grants (SOGs) are due on February 27, 2009. These grants will be awarded in June 2009. Two types of SOG are available:

SOG 1s are grants between \$5,000 and \$250,000 for acquisition or site improvement/restoration projects.

SOG 2s are grants up to \$500,000 for projects that do not include acquisition or site improvement/restoration. Time-sensitive SOG 2 requests of up to \$50,000 may be authorized early by the Executive Officer of the Conservancy.

No deadline has yet been set for FY 09-10 Competitive Grants.

Since the Conservancy's grant program is funded through Prop. 84 bonds, projects must have a demonstrated positive effect on water quality to qualify. The Conservancy strongly recommends consulting with their program staff prior to submitting an application. For more info, visit:

<http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/grants.html> or contact SNC Program Manager Kerri Timmer at 530-823-4683.

Alliance Events

Feb. 28 Fourth Annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival, 6-9, Lake Tahoe Community College, South Lake Tahoe, CA. More info to come!

Other Events

Jan. 14-15 Target 2030: Meeting the California Transportation Energy and Climate Challenges Conference, Hyatt Regency, Sacramento, CA.

The conference will be a gathering of industry, government and NGO leaders to identify and develop solutions to solve CA's major transportation related climate, energy security, and air pollution challenges. For more information, go to the [website](#) or contact Betsey Brown, Event Coordination at 626-744-5632 or

Governor Issues Executive Order to Address Sea Level Rise and to Create a State Adaptation Strategy

On Nov. 14, Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order (EO) S-13-08 to enhance the state's management of climate impacts from sea level rise, increased temperatures, shifting precipitation and extreme weather events. Four key actions were outlined in the Executive Order:

- 1) Initiate California's first statewide climate change adaptation strategy that will assess the state's expected climate change impacts, identify where California is most vulnerable and recommend climate adaptation policies by early 2009.
- 2) Request that the National Academy of Science establish an expert panel to report on sea level rise impacts in California to inform state planning and development efforts.
- 3) Issue interim guidance to state agencies for how to plan for sea level rise in designated coastal and floodplain areas for new projects.
- 4) Initiate a report on critical existing and planned infrastructure projects vulnerable to sea level rise.

bbrown@calstart.org

Jan. 17-21 California Native Plant Society Conservation Conference: Strategies and Solutions, Sacramento, CA. For more information go to the [website](#) or contact Conference planner Cynthia Perrine at: csgperrine@yahoo.com

Feb. 7 PCL's Annual Legislative Symposium "Steps to a Sustainable California." Sheraton Grand, Sacramento. For more information, contact Melanie Schlotterback 714-779-7561
MSchlotterbeck@pcl.org

To read the full text of the Executive Order, go to: <http://gov.ca.gov/press-release/11035/>

To read more about the development of a California Adaptation Strategy go to: <http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/index.html>

Taking Action for the Sierra

Adaptation Case Study: Managing for a Changing Climate on the Tahoe National Forest

A new study evaluates the current management policies of the Tahoe National Forest for their ability to accommodate climate adaptive management. The study also identifies opportunities and obstacles for facilitating adaptation to climate change within current management practices and policies as well as necessary steps and actions to further facilitate adaptation to climate change within U.S. National Forests. To read a summary go to:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc/cases/tahoe.shtml> or to read the preliminary public draft of the study go to: <http://www.climatescience.gov/Library/sap/sap4-4/public-review-draft/default.htm>

Relevant News Articles

Local

[Sierra Nevada climate changes feed monster, forest-devouring fires](#) by Tom Knudson, Sacramento Bee, Nov. 30. Wildfire has marched across the West for centuries. But no longer are major conflagrations fueled simply by heavy brush and timber. Now climate change is stoking the flames higher and hotter, too.

[Energy vs. Water: Solving Both Crises Together](#) by Michael Webber, Scientific American. Water is needed to generate energy. Energy is needed to deliver water. Both resources are limiting the other- and both may be running short. Is there a way out?

[Preparing ground for global warming](#) by Peter Gwynne, BNet. Scientists from several California universities are engaged in a prototype for a nationwide program of water research. The project focuses on a research site in the Sierra Nevada.

[Scientists study impact of climate on Nevada](#), Associated Press, Nov. 7. Among other issues, scientists from the Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada and Nevada State College

will study the impacts of a warming climate on the Colorado River that provides water to Las Vegas and the Sierra snowpack so important to Reno.

State

[State approves ambitious greenhouse-gas plan](#) by Jim Downing, Sacramento Bee, Dec. 11. With a promise to look more closely at the economic impacts of fighting climate change, the CA Air Resources Board unanimously approved the AB32 Scoping Plan.

[My View: The Climate has to be top priority](#) by Mike Chrisman, California Resources Secretary, Sacramento Bee, Dec. 6. Secretary Chrisman makes the case for the importance of adaptation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

[State unprepared for effects of warming](#), report says by Jane Kay, SFGate, Nov. 18. Despite its tough goals to reduce greenhouse gases, California is not prepared to deal with the flooding, coastal erosion and loss of wildlife habitat that scientists are predicting in the coming decades as a result of higher global temperatures, a new report says.

[Report outlines how to adapt to climate change](#) by Mike Lee, Union Tribune, Nov. 18. Scientists and policy experts unveiled San Diego County's first blueprint for adapting to rising sea levels, altered rainfall and other "catastrophic" changes linked to global warming.

[Obama's video message energizes climate conference](#) by Margot Roosevelt, Los Angeles Times, Nov. 19. President-elect tells delegates gathered in L.A. to debate tactics for reducing plant-warming pollution that his administration will help lead the way to a 'new era of global cooperation.'

[California leads fight against climate change on global level](#) by Margot Roosevelt, Los Angeles Times, Nov. 20. Gov. Schwarzenegger signs a pact with heads of other states and provinces to cut greenhouse gas emissions. 'We have got to do something worldwide here,' he says.

[Climate Change may carry huge price tag for California](#) by Margo Roosevelt, Los Angeles Times, Nov. 14. About \$2.5 trillion of real estate assets in California are at risk, with a projected annual price tag of between \$300 million and \$3.9 billion.

[Climate Change, drought to strain Colorado River](#) by Mike Stark, Associated Press, Dec. 5. Seven Western states will face more water shortages in the years ahead as climate change exacerbates the strains drought and a growing population have put on the Colorado River, scientists say.

[Global Warming- Good news for California's coast?](#) by Kit Stolz, Ventura County Reporter, Oct. 30. A team of researchers is reporting that global warming has already brought down the risk of the most powerful Santa Ana winds.

[Wanna Save Water? Try Carpooling](#) by Peter Spotts, Alternet, Nov. 5. More water will be needed to refine oil, produce biofuels or cool power plants that will be needed to meet the demand for more electric vehicles.

National

[U.S. Consumers say Companies Should Pay to Manage Climate Change](#), Environmental Leader, Nov. 16. The fifth EcoPinion Survey from EcoAlign finds that consumers generally agree on the definition of climate change and the importance of reducing emissions but disagree about specific actions necessary. The top response was still higher penalties on companies that contribute to climate change.

[Will Obama be the leader we need on climate change?](#) by Gillian Caldwell, Huffington Post, Nov. 5. How we can hold him accountable to his campaign promise and a vision for a new energy future.

[Forest Service unveils plan to fight climate change](#) by Tom Knudson, Sacramento Bee, Nov. 8. The goal is to respond to climate change broadly from helping forests adapt to warmer weather to reducing the agency's carbon footprint.

[CO2 Seeping Into Water Supply](#) by Michael Reilly, Discovery News, Nov. 18. Groundwater

seems to be taking on carbon dioxide 100 times faster than the atmosphere, according to a new study.

[How many jobs does it create to screw in a lightbulb?](#) by Bernie Woodall, Reuters, Oct. 21. Energy efficiency efforts in California over the past three decades have created or saved 1.5 million jobs and added \$45 billion to payrolls in the state, according to a report from David Roland-Host of UC Berkeley.

[Risk of Disease Rises With Water Temperature](#) by Kari Lydersen, Washington Post, Oct. 20. Higher lake and ocean temperatures will cause bacteria, parasites and algal blooms to flourish.

[Feared Trout Drop-off Signals Climate Shift in Montana](#), a video by PBS, Oct. 31. Warmer temperatures and a longer summer drought season in Montana are expected to have significant impacts on the state's trout fishing industry and ecosystem.

[Yellowstone amphibians in decline due to climate change](#), mongabay.com, Oct. 27. Climate change appears to be responsible for a "marked drop" in the population of three to four species of amphibian species in Yellowstone National Park.

International

[Mexico announces carbon cap at Poznan climate talks](#) by Vanessa Gera, Associated Press, Dec. 11. Developing countries upbraided rich nations at U.N. climate talks Thursday, saying they were refusing to act boldly enough to stop global warming.

[Time to Invest in Nature's Capital](#) by Andrew Mitchell, BBC. Amid the global financial crisis, it is time to recognize the wealth we enjoy from nature's capital.

[Ninety Percent of Young People Want Action on Climate Change](#) by Jamie Henn, Its Getting Hot in Here Blog, Oct. 24. 90 percent of young people around the world think global leaders should do "whatever it takes" to tackle climate change, according to a new United Nations Environmental Program Survey.

[UK announces world's largest algal biofuel project](#) by Alok Jha, The Guardian, Oct. 23. Carbon Trust launches 26 million pound project to develop transport fuels made from algae by 2020.

[Time to bury the 'clean coal' myth](#) by Fred Pearce, The Guardian, Oct. 30. Coal emits more carbon dioxide for every unit of energy generated than any other fuel.

[Australia acts to save 'Alps' from climate change](#) by Kathy Marks, The Independent, Nov. 10. Australia's most spectacular mountain landscapes, home to unique native species, have been places on the national heritage register.

[Chilean Glacier will vanish in 50 years](#), physorg.com, Nov. 2. Chile's official water authority warned Saturday that the Echaurren glacier near Santiago, which supplies the capital with 70 percent of its water needs, could disappear in the next half century.

[Climate change to hit power, dams](#), Sydney Morning Herald, Nov. 6. Electricity blackouts, dry dams and crumbling footpaths will be the consequence of climate change to Australia, a new report has found.

Useful Reports and Resources

[Preparing California for a Changing Climate](#) by Louise Bedsworth and Ellen Hanak of the Public Policy Institute of California shows that that state needs an integrated adaptation policy and that while some institutions like water agencies and utilities have already begun to plan for change, other areas have not yet prepared effectively for the challenges of a changing California.

[California Climate Risk and Response](#) is a new report authored by Prof. David-Roland Holst and Frederich Kahrl at UC Berkeley that comprehensively examines the economic impacts of climate change and adaptation in California. It compiles the available science on climate damage, assesses the economic implications and examines alternative strategies for adaptation.

[Department of the Interior Climate Change Task Force Draft Subcommittee Reports](#). In 2007, Secretary Kempthorne created the Climate Change Taskforce, directing it to examine possible climate changes and how they would affect disaster management, water resource management, and wildlife and habitat management and to develop management responses. Recently the three subcommittees of the taskforce released their draft reports, which include more than 80 options for how the Department could prepare and respond to climate change. [Energy Efficiency, Innovation and Job Creation in California](#) is another report by Next10 that found the proposed package of policies in California's AB32 Scoping Plan continues California's legacy of efficiency-driven job growth, increasing the GSP by \$76 billion and creating over 400,000 new efficiency and climate action driven jobs.

[Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World](#) by UNEP is the first comprehensive report on the emergence of a "green economy" and its impacts on the world of work in the 21st century. The report was commissioned and funded by the United Nations Environment Programme.

[Policies for Funding a Response to Climate Change](#) is a paper that emphasizes that a significant increase in public funding for climate change research and development is needed in the U.S. It considers possible means of generating additional public revenues, finding that modest taxes on carbon emissions or gasoline could fund a significant increase in public R & D funding for clean energy.

[Governing Climate Change Post-2012: The Role of Global Cities- London](#) is a report by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research that tracks the emergence and evolution of London's climate change policy from 2000 to 2008, a period marked by the development of strategies and initiatives that addressed leadership, infrastructure change and changing practices.

[The Role of Cities in Climate Governance- The Case of Los Angeles](#) is a working paper that examines the significance of activities in Los Angeles in addressing climate change and assesses how they are affecting and will be affected by the post-2012 international policy framework.

Cool Websites and Blogs

[U.S. Forest Service Climate Change Resource Center](#) is a reference website for resource managers and decision makers who need information and tools to address climate change in planning and project implementation on lands in the West. The website features management options, a climate change primer and resources and publications from "air pollution" to "wildlife. [It's Getting Hot in Here: Dispatches from the Youth Climate Movement](#) is a community media project featuring student and youth leaders from the movement to stop global warming and to build a just and more sustainable future.

[Earth 2100](#) is a television and internet production of ABC News asking viewers to help answer perhaps the most important question of our time- What could our world look like over the next one hundred years if we don't act now to save our troubled planet? Using data and projections from top scientists, ABC News will present three future scenarios of the world from the years 2015, 2050 and 2100 and is asking you to be their reporters for the future by submitting 1-3 minute long videos about your future world as if you are experiencing it now, firsthand. The most compelling videos will be integrated into a two hour primetime ABC news broadcast: Earth 2100.

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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Protecting and restoring Sierra land, water, wildlife and communities since 1993.



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