

Robert Collier

From: Robert Collier [robert@sierranevadaalliance.org]
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To: robert@sierranevadaalliance.org
Subject: Sierra Climate Change News July 2009



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Climate Change News July 2009

Including [Campaign Updates](#), [Taking Action for the Sierra](#), [Adaptation Spotlights](#), [Relevant News Articles](#), [Useful Reports and Resources](#) and [Cool Websites and Blogs](#)

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[Campaign Updates](#)

Alliance Events

October 16-18, 16th Annual Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference at the North Tahoe Event Center in Kings Beach. Register Now! Check our [website](#) for more details!

October 16 Sierra IRWMP Summit at the North Tahoe Conference Center. For more information click [here](#).

October 16-18 Youth Track at the Alliance's Annual Conference. Teens will have the opportunity to hear from hundreds of conservation leaders and learn about renewable energy in the Sierra. Visit the [website](#) for more.

Other Events

August 7 Annual Children's Environmental Science Day in Incline Village, NV. Children 8 and older are invited to spend the day with scientists learning about the ecology, function, restoration, and preservation of Lake Tahoe. More information [here](#).

August 8 Great Sierra River Clean-Up Day Training in Auburn. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy will be hosting a training day on how to run a successful river cleanup. To sign up please contact [Janet Cohen](#) at (530) 265-5770 or [Brittany Juergenson](#) at (530) 823-4686.

October 10 Carson River Watershed Tour. The "Get on the Bus" tour will explore the Upper Carson River watershed, beginning in Carson and travelling through Alpine County, CA. Contact the Carson Water Subconservancy District for

THE SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

SPECIAL: REGISTER NOW and receive the Early Bird Rate for the Sierra Nevada Alliance 16th Annual Conference: *Celebrating the Nature the Sierra*, October 16-18, 2009. Visit our [website](#) to view the agenda register for the conference.

Join us once again at the shore of Lake Tahoe for what many call the conservation conference in the Sierra! The weekend will be full of inspiring speakers, great workshops, fund field trips and terrific networking!

ATTENTION TEENS (AND RELATIVES OF TEENS)

COME TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH TRACK AT THE BEST SIERRA CONSERVATION CONFERENCE OF THE YEAR.

WHAT: The Sierra Nevada Alliance offers the Young Environmental Leaders track for teens ages 13-18 at the best conservation conference the Sierra. Don't miss your chance to attend this special track woven into Sierra Nevada Alliance's Annual Conference. By attending, you will have opportunity to learn more about how to protect and restore the Environment of the Sierra, tour renewable energy facilities, and get your hands dirty helping restore Tahoe rivers and lakes – all in one fun and inspiring weekend. You will also learn how to conduct your own home energy audit, which can save money, energy, and natural resources.

Plus, you will participate in the full Sierra Nevada Alliance conference, hear what hundreds of others are doing to protect and restore the Sierra, meet Sierra environmental heroes, and leave with new tools and resources to make a difference when you return home.

WHEN: October 16-18, 2009.

WHERE: North Tahoe Conference Center in Kings Beach on beautiful Lake Tahoe.

Cost: The registration fee will be approximately \$75 covering 5 meals, lodging and transportation costs for Friday night through Sunday afternoon. Scholarships will be available, so check the [website](#) for updated information.

Register Today: Visit the [website](#) to see the full agenda and complete simple registration form. If you register now, you will receive the **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTED RATE** of \$75.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SCHOLARSHIP DONORS FOR THE YOUTH TRACK

In honoring our tradition of providing scholarship opportunities in past years, we are currently seeking generous persons to donate funds to support the youth conference. If you are unable to bring a teen to the Young Environmental Leaders Conference, but would like to be a Scholarship Donor to cover the cost of a participant, please contact Robert Collier (see below). Once we have gathered these scholarship funds, there will be a competitive application process involving a brief essay for those teens who wish to apply.

more info (775)-887-7450.

October 29 "Connecting the Dots Symposium"

Healthy Forests, Healthy Economies, Healthy Communities. Visit the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's [website](#) for more details.

February 9-11, 2010 Pre and Post-Wild Fire Forest Management for Ecological Restoration and Fire Resiliency

at the McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento see the [website](#) for more details.

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If you want to know more about becoming a scholarship donor please contact Robert Collier (530)-542-4546 robert@sierranevadaalliance.org.

SIERRA IRWMP SUMMIT

Integrating Water Management in the Sierra

Friday, October 16, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

North Tahoe Conference Center
Kings Beach, CA

Join Sierra IRWM stakeholders to discuss lessons learned from planning and implementation of IRWMPs, new challenges and issues facing water management in the Sierra, finding sustainable funding for IRWM efforts and next steps for Sierra IRWM efforts.

Summit Summary: Over the past 5 years and across the Sierra, diverse groups have been coming together to create model Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) to ensure reliable water supply, protect water quality and restore Sierra headwaters. While in various stages of pre-planning, planning and implementation, IRWMPs now cover almost the entire Sierra region. The state budget crisis, state bond freeze and the economic downturn, however, have presented serious challenges to sustained IRWM planning and implementation in the region. The 2009 Sierra IRWMP Summit will address these and other challenges, celebrate past successes, and bring together IRWM stakeholders across the Sierra to chart a new course for integrated water planning.

Who should attend: IRWM stakeholders including planners, water agencies, conservation organizations, local government, state and federal resource management agencies, tribes, environmental justice community, and other water stakeholders.

Cost of attendance: \$40 including lunch on the deck overlooking Lake Tahoe.

For more information, including a draft agenda, visit:

http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/news/calendar/profile.shtml?index=1248207177_10417&cat=&loc=&listpage=1

Interested in Sponsoring this event? Please contact Kay Ogden, Development Director, kay@sierranevadaalliance.org 530-542-4546 ext 306

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY (ACES) ACT PASSES THE HOUSE

The ACES Act is a comprehensive approach to America's energy policy that charts a new course towards a clean energy economy. The bill represents the most aggressive action Congress has taken towards tackling climate change and it promises to achieve the following:

- **Sets a declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions** at 17% below 2005 levels by 2020 and 83% by 2050
- **Establishes a cap-and-trade program** to spur investment in clean energy technologies and new manufacturing jobs
- **Promotes clean energy** by requiring that 20% of electricity comes from renewable sources such as wind, solar, certain types of biofuels, and energy efficiency by 2020
- **Protects the competitiveness of energy-intensive industries** (like steel and concrete) by giving them free permits, or allowances, to emit a certain amount of greenhouse gases in the early years; this helps solve the problem of international competition from uncapped countries
- **Keeps utility rates low** for consumers by giving 30% of allowances to local electricity and natural gas companies, and requiring the utilities to pass the benefits on to their customers
- **Protects low- and moderate-income households** by allocating 15% of allowances to minimize impacts on these households

- **Provides an incentive for other countries** without a cap on carbon to limit their emissions, by allowing the president to impose fees on carbon-intensive imports from nations that haven't adopted their own greenhouse gas cap (starting in 2025)

Though the bill represents a substantial first step towards achieving a national climate change policy, it has drawn criticism from several influential environmental groups. The Senate has taken up the bill and will draft their version.

For more information on and summaries of the bill take a look at the following websites:

- <http://www.grist.org/article/2009-06-03-waxman-markey-bill-breakdown>
- http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/ddoniger/the_american_clean_energy_secu.html
- http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1560

Taking Action for the Sierra

Apply to be a host site for a Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps member today!

The Sierra Nevada Alliance invites Sierra Nevada conservation organizations and agencies to apply to become a Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) partner site for the upcoming 2010 program. SNAP partner sites receive a full-time AmeriCorps member who serves an entire 2010 year at your organization/agency by conducting watershed assessment and restoration, watershed education projects, offering volunteer recruitment and support, and some limited fundraising activities. **Host Site Applications are due on August 3rd!**

Please Note: Prior to July 9, 2009, the full application on our website had an omission of one application question. If you download the application prior to July 9, please revisit our website to re-download the full application form (this does not apply to re-applying sites).

Application materials and more information on the SNAP program are available now to download from our website:

http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/programs/profile.shtml?index=1189101768_13950

Please submit your full application by **Close of Business on August 3, 2009**. All applications should be sent by email to Do Lee at do@sierranevadaalliance.org

The 2010 SNAP program will run from January 18, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

For more information, please contact:

Do Lee at 530.542.4546 x 303 or at do@sierranevadaalliance.org or

Morgan Fessler at 530.542.4546 x 312 or at morgan@sierranevadaalliance.org

JOB OPPORTUNITY: PLANNING AND CONSERVATION WATER POLICY ASSOCIATE

PCL is hiring a Water Policy Advocate as an addition to the Water Team. This position works as a team member with the Water Policy Advisor, Water Program Manager others to advocate in the State Legislature and organize political action in support of Water Program goals. The Water Policy Advocate represents PCL in legislative, state and federal water policy processes including legislative committee hearings and agency meetings. The position works directly with local and regional leaders to build support for priority policy reforms including water justice, adaptation to climate change, water recycling, water conservation, and water neutral development. The position requires the candidate to register as a state lobbyist.

Learn more by downloading the [position description](#). **Application packages will be accepted until August 14, 2009**. No phone calls please.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: RESTORY HETCH HETCHY VOLUNTEER MANAGER

Restore Hetch Hetchy (www.hetchhetchy.org), a national environmental advocacy campaign is in need of a talented, experienced volunteer manager for a 6-8 week outreach mobilization in San Francisco. Must have

previous volunteer recruitment experience and have a sound knowledge of San Francisco neighborhoods. Position is 20 hours/week and requires availability both nights and weekends. Could become full-time, permanent position. Hiring immediately.

To apply please email a one page cover letter outlining your personal approach to volunteer recruitment and volunteer management, a current resume and 3-4 references to mike@hetchhetchy.org. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

ADAPTATION SPOTLIGHT: CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER ELEMENT

As part of the Calaveras County General Plan Update process, the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors approved the inclusion of a [Water Element](#) in the plan update. The Water Element was developed through a collaborative process involving water and wastewater agency directors and staff, County staff, and representatives of other public and private interests. The group recognized the importance of considering water as an integral part of the General Plan Update, and the critical need to better link water-related planning and management with land-use planning. The group of stakeholders also saw the importance of including provisions for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Among the nine co-equal goals of the Water Element, goal 3 states: "Climate change adaptation and mitigation: To ensure that the County proactively develops policies and programs, and makes decisions that address the future challenges posed by climate change including prolonged drought, flooding, and water quality/aquatic resources impacts."

In addition to encouraging the County to support local and federal efforts that aim to reduce energy consumption related to water use and promote strategies for adapting to climate change, the Water Element advises the County to investigate opportunities for revenue generation from green technologies and clean energy. One potential mechanism for revenue generation that the Water Element calls out specifically is small-scale hydroelectric plants.

The Water Element Group submitted their document in February 2009 and are now in the process of working with the County to include the Water Element in the General Plan Update. Once the Update is completed, the County will be responsible for implementing the Water Element policies and implementation over the next 25 to 30 years.

For more information about the Calaveras County Water Element visit the Calaveras County Water District's website http://www.cwd.org/pages/CCWtrElement_Main.htm.

You can also find more information about the Calaveras County General Plan Update here: <http://co.calaveras.ca.us/cc/Departments/PlanningDepartment/GeneralPlanUpdate.aspx>.

Relevant News Articles

Local

[Sierra geothermal to benefit from stimulus spending](#) by James West, MidasLetter.com, Jul. 2. Sierra Geothermal Power Corp. expects to capitalize on the renewed impetus for green power sources that both the recession and the election of President Obama have inspired.

[Geotourism project seeks community nominations](#) Tahoe Daily Tribune, Jul. 25. As part of a sustainable tourism strategy by the Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce, community members are asked to submit suggestions for local, sustainable destinations.

[Going green pays off for Embassy](#) by Sara Thompson, Tahoe Daily Tribune, Jul. 25. After spending \$200,000 on environmental improvements in January, Embassy Suites Lake Tahoe has already paid for the investments in energy savings in just seven months.

State

[Energy firms help pay for state regulators' far-flung trips](#) by Tom Knudson, Sacramento Bee, Jul. 26.

Knudson's latest investigation finds that state officials who led California's war on global warming often travel abroad on trips supported by the major greenhouse gas polluters they regulate.

[Dutch expert offers advice on saving Delta](#) by Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee, Jul. 1. A new effort in the Netherlands called the Delta Alliance seeks to unite people around the world struggling to manage river delta regions, ecosystems that some see as being on the front line of climate change.

[MMWD looks at plan for longer drought](#) by Mark Prado, Marin Independent Journal, Jul. 2. In anticipation of climate change affecting water supply and precipitation patterns, the Marin Municipal Water District is planning for longer droughts than previously anticipated.

[Scientists plot and prepare for Noah's Ark-like floods](#) by Dana Bartholomew, Long Beach Press-Telegram, Jul. 26. Worried about the long-term effects of climate change, the USGS and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration are co-creating a scenario for a cataclysmic flood across the Golden State.

[California's looming groundwater catastrophe](#) by Peter Gleick, San Francisco Chronicle, Jul. 14. California is one of the only states with almost completely unregulated groundwater use. Pretending that we only need to allocate and monitor surface water use and rights, while unlimited groundwater use is permitted, is a recipe for disaster.

[California sets pace for solar power](#) by Felicity Barringer, New York Times, Jul. 15. The solar capacity in California grew by a third from 2007 to 2008 and now represents two-thirds of the national total. In the past decade the number of solar installations has increase from 500 to 50,000.

[Birds can only fly so far](#) by Seth Shteir, High Country News, Jul. 9. During past climate fluctuations birds may have been able to shift their ranges successfully, now, however, climate change is occurring so suddenly that certain species are finding it difficult to adapt.

National

[Boom in hydropower pits fish against climate](#) Kim Murphy, Los Angeles Time, Jul. 27. Expanding hydropower is fraught with controversy, much of it stemming from the industry's history of turning wild rivers into industrialized reservoirs struggling to support their remaining fish.

[House climate bill was flooded with last minute changes](#) by Jim Tankersley, Los Angeles Times, Jul. 20. Before the American Clean Energy and Security Act passed through the House in late June, there were about 300 pages of last-minute amendments, many designed to make money for industries and constituencies important to fence-sitting lawmakers.

[Increasing dust speeds melting of mountain snow](#) by Randolph Schmid, Fairfield Daily Republic, Jun. 29. The natural timing of mountain snowmelt is being thrown off by desert dust stirred as global warming dries larger areas and human activity increases in those regions.

[New measures to aid solar on public lands](#) by Kate Galbraith, New York Times, Jun. 29. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar recently announced measures to hasten the development of solar energy on Western public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

[States digging deep to monitor water](#) by David Tirrell, The Oakland Tribune, Jul. 5. The U.S. Geologic Survey is working with states to develop a national groundwater monitoring program for water supplies know as aquifers. The program will allow scientists to observe how climate change is affecting the nation's groundwater.

[Climate change may increase mine impacts](#) by D.K. Nordstrom, Southwest Hydrology, Jul./Aug. 2009. The first flush effect related to acid-mine and acid-rock drainage in the Western U.S. may intensify with climate change as precipitation events become flashier and more extreme.

[Climate change takes a toll on Glacier National Park](#) by Daniel Terdiman, CNET, Jul. 16. Scientists estimate that Glacier National Park will be glacier-free by 2030 from rapid climate change.

International

[Water fights](#) by Nancy Macdonald, Macleans.ca. Jul. 6. As Australia experiences its longest and most devastating drought in history, some predict that the Western U.S. and Canada may be the next region to experience severe water shortages that could lead to intense water conflicts.

[Arctic Glacier to lose Manhattan-sized 'tongue'](#) by Catherine Brahic, New Scientist, Jul. 14. The biggest glacier in the Arctic is on the verge of losing a chunk of ice the size of Manhattan.

[Coral condemned to extinction by CO2 levels](#) by Alok Jah, The Guardian, Jul. 7. David Attenborough joined scientists to warn that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is already above the level which condemns coral reefs to extinction in the future, with catastrophic effects for the oceans and the people who depend upon them.

[Permafrost melting a growing climate threat](#) by Reuters, Jun. 30. The amount of carbon locked away in frozen soils in the far Northern Hemisphere is double previous estimates and could accelerate global warming, according to a new study.

Useful Reports and Resources

[Model Policies for Greenhouse Gas Reductions in General Plans](#) demonstrates the need for local governments to take aggressive action in incorporating emissions reductions measures as they update their general plans. The report is comprised of model policies for greenhouse gas reduction that can be incorporated into a jurisdiction's general plan.

[Adapting to climate change in United States national forests](#) is a summary of key points from a review of climate change adaptation options for United States national forests produced under the auspices of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program.

[Quantifying the Risk to California's Energy Infrastructure – Climate Change](#) looks at how the vulnerability of infrastructure will change as the climate changes. It presents a draft methodology using GIS mapping to quantify risk to California's energy infrastructure from projected climate change.

[Potential Impacts of Climate Change on California's Energy Infrastructure and Identification of Adaptation Measures](#) from the California Energy Commission presents a brief overview of potential impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, increasing temperatures, shifting precipitation trends, etc. on California's energy infrastructure. The paper explains what is known about many of impacts today and what is projected to 2100. The paper identifies some of the adaptation strategies that California could implement.

[Resilience in the Face of Global Environmental Change](#) by Susanne C. Moser of the Community and Regional Resilience Initiative provides relevant insights on resilience from the global climate change literature. It discusses a number of aspects feeding into resilience, such as vulnerability, adaptive capacity, and social capital. The paper points to some promising research frontiers on resilience in the human dimensions field.

[Identifying Sustainable Pathways for Climate Adaptation and Poverty Reduction](#) by the Development Fund aims to contribute to the increased understanding of how to integrate climate change adaptation in poverty reduction projects and programs in ways that increase the capacity of individuals, households, and communities to respond to climate variability and change.

[Climate Change, Wildlife, and Wildlands Toolkit for Formal and Informal Educators](#) is designed for classroom teachers and informal educators in parks, refuges, forest lands, nature centers, etc. and is aimed at the middle school grade level. The toolkit includes case studies of 11 eco-regions in the U.S., highlighting regional impacts on habitats and wildlife; classroom activities keyed to national science standards; and a 12-minute video on climate science.

[The Carbon Side of Eden](#)

Cool Websites and Blogs

[Ecosystems and Livelihoods Adaptation Network \(ELAN\)](#) is a new initiative that will link science, practice, and policy of ecosystem management and focus on supporting capacity and building resilience in developing countries. ELAN is a partnership between the World Wildlife Fund for Nature and the IUCN.

[Adaptation Learning Mechanism \(ALM\)](#) draws from experiences on the ground, featuring tools and practical guidance to meet the needs of developing countries. Seeking to provide stakeholders with a common platform for sharing and learning, the ALM will also complement the wide range of adaptation knowledge networks and initiatives already underway.

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 robert@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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The Sierra Nevada Alliance's mission is to protect and restore the natural environment of the Sierra Nevada for future generations while ensuring healthy and sustainable communities.

P Please consider your impact on the environment before printing this e-mail.

**The Sierra Nevada Alliance has upgraded to Microsoft Office 2007. Some email attachments sent by the Alliance may be in an Office 2007 file format which cannot be opened in earlier versions without a file format converter. Additional information on Office 2007 file formats and the free converter plug-in can be found by following this link: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en>