

Robert Collier

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



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Climate Change News September 2009

Including [Campaign Updates](#), [Job Announcements](#), [Adaptation Spotlights](#), [Relevant News Articles](#), [Useful Reports and Resources](#) and [Cool Websites and Blogs](#)

(click on the links to jump to a section)

[Campaign Updates](#)

Alliance Events

October 6 Tahoe Yard and Garden Expo. At the Tahoe Women's Center Demonstration Garden. 4-7pm, all ages welcome. Call 530-542-4546 x315 for more information.

October 15 Sierra Meadows Forum with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation at the North Tahoe Conference Center. Find out more [here](#).

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

October 17-18, 16th Annual Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference at the North Tahoe Event Center in Kings Beach. Register Now! Check our [website](#) for more details!

October 16-18 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

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

THE SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE'S 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER:

Celebrating the Nature of the Sierra October 16-18, 2009.

Visit our [website](#) to view the agenda and register for the conference now!

Join us once again at the shore of Lake Tahoe for what many call the best 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 Youth Track for teens ages 13-at the best conservation conference in the Sierra. Don't miss your chance to attend this special track woven into the Sierra Nevada Alliance's Annual Conference. By attending, you will have the opportunity to learn more about 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 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 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 is \$75 covering 5 meals, lodging and transportation costs for Friday night through Sunday afternoon. **Scholarships are available.** Please contact AmeriCorps member [Robert Collier](#) if you are interested in a scholarship.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SCHOLARSHIP DONORS FOR THE YOUTH TRACK

In honoring our tradition of providing scholarship opportunities in past years, 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 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.

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

Subconservancy District for more info (775)-887-7450.

October 20 [Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project Annual Meeting](#)

The goal of the annual meeting is to promote shared understanding of the current status of SNAMP and its findings thus far and to allow for public interaction and involvement.

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October 29 [Sierra Nevada Conservancy "Connecting the Dots Symposium"](#)

Healthy Forests, Healthy Economies, Healthy Communities. Visit the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's website for more details.

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February 9-11 2010 [Pre and Post-Wild Fire Forest Management for Ecological Resiliency](#)

at the McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento see the website for more details.

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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.

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

Meaningful Jobs in the Sierra!

Development Program Associate – Sierra Nevada Alliance

Location: South Lake Tahoe, CA

Position, Salary & Benefits: This is either a Full Time OR Part Time Position

Full time, exempt position. Medical, dental, sick leave, generous paid holidays plus vacation benefits following 90 days of employment. \$28,000 - \$35,000 salary range depending on experience and skill set.

Part time with sick leave, paid holidays plus vacation benefits following 90 days of employment. \$14,000 - \$17,500 salary range depending on experience and skill set.

Position Summary:

The Development Program Associate supports the Development & Communications Director in achieving the Alliance's non-foundation annual and long-range development and fundraising goals through a multitude of strategies such as: individual and major donor cultivation, event fundraising, sponsorships, Alliance merchandise sales, direct mail and house parties. Strategies will be accomplished through: donor research, data analysis and information management, strategy development, donor database management, mailings and creating supporting materials. The Development Program Associate will be a member of the Sustainable Organization Team and will report directly to the Development & Communications Director.

To see the full position description, [click here](#).

To Apply: Please submit a resume, two page cover-letter indicating your strongest qualifications and interest in the position, three references and salary history. Email these to kay@sierranevadaalliance.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Regional Sustainability Campaign Director – Sierra Nevada Alliance

Location: South Lake Tahoe, CA

Position Summary: The Sierra Nevada Alliance Regional Sustainability Campaign Director provides experienced leadership and strategic planning to train and support grassroots efforts to shape smart growth and develop model sustainable regional resource plans in the Sierra Nevada and to advocate for state policies benefitting Sierra sustainability efforts.

Regional Sustainability Campaign: The Sierra Nevada is one of the fastest growing areas of California and sprawling development is threatening old growth forests, critical habitat and important watershed lands. In addition, climate change is affecting wildlife survival and migration, snow-pack and water management and the frequency and severity of fires. To address these challenges, the Sierra Nevada Alliance created the Sierra

Regional Sustainability Program to protect Sierra lands, water, wildlife and rural quality of life by shaping county and regional resource plans that promote smart land use, reduce greenhouse gases and adapt to climate change.

The Campaign builds the capacity of grassroots organizations to win strong conservation policies at the county and regional level. Capacity support includes trainings on planning campaigns, building diverse coalitions, recruiting and retaining volunteers, mobilizing mass public support, gaining media coverage, lobbying public officials, fundraising, submitting public comments, creating strong legal records, and other tactics to win local campaigns. The Regional Sustainability Campaign also networks grassroots groups around the Sierra, links groups to needed technical and financial resources, develops campaign resources, and provides on-going consultation.

The campaign also advocates for sound statewide and national policies and resources to support smart growth and sustainability efforts in the Sierra.

Compensation: Full-time exempt position with an annual salary range of \$45,000-\$60,000. Health insurance and dental insurance provided. Annual accrual of 80 hours of vacation in the first year, 12 days of sick leave per year and 15 paid holidays.

For the full position description, [click here](#).

To Apply: Please submit a resume, two page cover-letter indicating your strongest qualifications and interest in the position, three references and salary history. Email these to the Associate Director Mary Bennington at mary@sierranevadaalliance.org. If you have questions please call the Executive Director, Joan Clayburgh at 530-542-4546 x 307. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Apply today for one of the 27 open positions of the 2010 Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership!

We are seeking enthusiastic conservation minded people to devote a year to serve for the protection of Sierra natural resources and sustainable communities. For this year of service Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership members will receive skills and technical training, mentor with outstanding environmental leaders and get an education award at the end of your service. Apply today – we are accepting applications now for positions starting January 18, 2010!

The 2009 SNAP members have contributed greatly to Sierran organizations! Jane Sellen of Friends of Deer Creek (Nevada City, CA) states, “Friends of Deer Creek is hosting AmeriCorps members for the third consecutive year, and we can’t say enough good things about this wonderful program! Our members bring to our organization freshness, energy and idealism that are contagious. Each year, the caliber of the young people in the program is exceptionally high, which allows our organization to accomplish far more than our budget would otherwise allow.”

Apply today to be part of the great work of the SNAP program!

How to Apply:

To download the 2010 SNAP Application Packet, go to:

http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/programs/profile.shtml?index=1161366201_14778

For more information please contact:

- Morgan Fessler, Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership Regional Coordinator: 530-542-4546 x 312 or snap@sierranevadaalliance.org.
- Or visit www.sierranevadaalliance.org and the ‘program’s section of the website.

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

ADAPTATION SPOTLIGHT: ALASKA’S ADAPTATION STRATEGY!

In September 2007, former Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin created a Sub-Cabinet for climate change to advise the Office of the Governor on the preparation and implementation of an Alaska climate change strategy. This Sub-Cabinet is comprised of four advisory groups that cover the following topics: mitigation; adaptation; immediate actions; and research needs. The Adaptation Advisory Group (AAG) focuses on how to address present and future impacts of climate change on public infrastructure, human health and culture, natural systems, and economic activities. In order to create a diverse group of stakeholders to serve on the AAG, the Sub-Cabinet pulled together public officials, Alaskan Natives, academic researchers, industry representatives, and faith based groups. Over the course of the past year, the group met on nearly a monthly basis to propose adaptation recommendations to the Office of the Governor.

Earlier this month, the AAG released a document titled [Alaska's Climate Change Strategy: Addressing Impacts in Alaska](#), which describes the impending threats of climate change and proposes adaptation strategies to these challenges across the four sectors. Some solutions that the Strategy presents are listed below-

- **Public Infrastructure**
 - Create a coordinated and accessible statewide system for key data collection, analysis and monitoring
 - Promote improvements that use the current best practice
- **Natural Systems**
 - Incorporate climate change into fisheries assessment and management and assist fishing communities and users in adaptation
 - Review and modify as appropriate Alaska's wildland fire policy and programs to address potential climate-induced increases in wildland fire frequency, size, and geographic location
 - Support and expand sustainable agriculture production and marketing in Alaska
- **Economic Activities**
 - Recognize and address the potential for increased Arctic economic activities and identify gaps in infrastructure and the ability to provide an adequate presence in the Arctic coastal region to protect environmental resources, human health, and safety
 - Conduct an assessment of economic strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats by sector to better understand current and potential components of the economy
- **Public Health and Culture**
 - Augment surveillance and control programs for vector-, water-, and food-borne diseases likely to become greater threats because of climate change
 - Assess sanitation infrastructure and practices at risk from flooding, thawing permafrost, and other risks

For more information about what Alaska is doing to adapt to climate change, head to the Climate Change Strategy website: <http://www.climatechange.alaska.gov/aag/aag.htm>

Climate Change News Articles

Local

[Placer County expects tough questions on Tahoe power plant](#) by Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee, Sep. 12. Placer County officials are inching forward with plans to build a one- to three-megawatt biomass power plant in the Lake Tahoe basin that would convert wood scraps from forest thinning projects into energy.

[Solar work almost complete with Truckee sanitation district](#) by Greyson Howard, Sierra Sun, Sep. 17. The Truckee sanitation district board expressed interest in solar power about a year and a half ago, and is now about a month away from generating 190,000 kilowatt hours annually, potentially bringing their annual energy cost from around \$20,000 to \$25,000 to zero.

State

[Schwarzenegger plans executive order on renewable energy](#) by Susan Ferris, Sacramento Bee, Sep. 14. The Governor plans to issue an executive order that will instruct the California Air Resources Control Board to design regulations for how utilities can meet a 33% renewable goal by 2020.

[Dutch help Bay area plan for sea level rise](#) by Julia Scott, Mercury News, Sep. 22. Recently, a group of Dutch experts presented a report with strategies to deal with sea level rise in San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta based on a year's worth of research in partnership with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

[PG&E parting ways with U.S. chamber a hot topic](#) by Andrew Ross, San Francisco Chronicle, Sep. 23. Citing "irreconcilable differences," PG&E Corp. says it's leaving the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on account of the latter's "extreme position on climate change."

[Schwarzenegger hosts climate summit this week](#) by Kevin Yamamura, Sacramento Bee, Sep. 29. The Californian Governor will hold his second annual international climate summit this week in Los Angeles, which organizers have billed as a precursor to United Nations talks in December to establish new worldwide emissions targets.

National

[U.S. chamber of commerce faces revolt over its opposition to global warming legislation](#) by Dana Hull, Mercury News, Sep. 29. As Senator Boxer prepares to unveil the Senate's climate change legislation on Capitol Hill today, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a strong opponent of the bill, faces a high-profile revolt by some of its members.

[Triple threat imperils Colorado's water supply](#) by Joe Hanel, Rocky Mountain Independent, Sep. 2. Scientists say human activity is at least partially to blame for three major environmental problems that will affect Colorado's water supply: the pine beetle plague, rising temperatures, and intensifying winter dust storms.

[Climate bill politics are heating up](#) by Jim Tankersley, Los Angeles Times, Sep. 14. After months of promoting President Obama's climate plan as a vehicle to create millions of clean-energy jobs, supporters of the legislation are increasingly pushing its benefits for national security.

[Climate skeptics a challenge for water planners](#) by Brent Gardner-Smith, Aspen Daily News, Sep. 23. A growing list of studies show that global climate change will mean less water in the Colorado River, but varying perceptions about climate change are a hurdle to making decisions about future water supplies.

[Proposals lag behind promises on climate](#) by Neil MacFarquhar, New York Times, Sep. 22. World leaders gathered for a global summit meeting on climate change made modest proposals for combating the problem, underscoring the way domestic political battles still trump what UN officials had hoped would be a sense of global urgency.

International

[Ancient glaciers are disappearing faster than ever](#) by Michael McCarthy, The Independent, Sep. 24. Melting ice is pouring off Greenland and Antarctica into the sea faster than was previously realized because of warming temperatures, meaning that sea level could rise at a faster rate than previously suggested.

[Our best guess about global warming may be wrong](#) by Moises Velasquez-Manoff, Christian Science Monitor, Aug. 31. As climate scientists further improve on their global climate models, they are just beginning to explore what may happen when atmospheric CO2 reaches an unknown threshold.

[How global warming sealed the fate of the world's coral reefs](#) by David Adam, The Guardian, Sep. 2. Within a few decades, experts are warning, the tropical reefs strung around the middle of our planet will be reduced to rubble because of climate change and other human-driven forces.

[Warmest NZ August to date](#) by Vaimoana Tapaleao, New Zealand Herald, Sep. 9. Warm August temperatures melted away winter snows much earlier than usual and the average winter temperature for the country was 0.2 degrees C above normal.

Useful Reports and Resources

[Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change: A Literature Review](#) summarizes current estimates regarding the impacts of climate change. It explains how these estimates are made in order to identify the main sources of uncertainty and approximation affecting them. The paper discusses the way this uncertainty should influence policymaker's decisions.

[Integrating Climate Change into State and Regional Transportation Plans](#) reviews current transportation plans and related planning documents from 12 U.S. state departments of transportation and 18 metropolitan planning organizations. The paper provides some recommendations to link long range transportation planning and climate change in regulations.

[Why Climate Change Makes Riparian Restoration More Important than Ever: Recommendations for Practice and Research](#) by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory reviews the potential role for riparian restoration to prepare ecological systems for the threats posed by climate change. Riparian ecosystems are naturally resilient, provide linear habitat connectivity, link aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and create thermal refugia for wildlife: all characteristics that can contribute to ecological adaptation to climate change.

[Climate Change Information for Effective Adaptation: A Practitioners Manual](#) provides information on the following frequently asked questions: What sources of information on climate change exist as a basis for decision making? How reliable is this information? What are sources of uncertainty regarding this information? How can we communicate relevant information to others in a credible way?

[Re-Shuffling of Species with Climate Disruption: A No-Analogue Future for California Birds?](#) quantifies the potential change in California terrestrial breeding bird communities based on current and future species-distribution models for 60 focal species. Projections of future no-analogue communities based on two climate models and two species-distribution-model algorithms indicate that by 2070 over half of California could be occupied by novel assemblages of bird species.

[Towards Climate Neutral Cities: A Regional Perspective](#) outlines how certain actions taken at the city level can reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of the framework of intervention need to enhance the overall urban sustainability. Related policies such as smart growth, increased green spaces, and energy efficiency in buildings are elements of urban development strategies that predate the international quest for climate neutrality.

[Closing the Gap: Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change in Developing Countries](#) focuses on the human dimension of climate change. It examines the ethics of climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the trust gap between developed and developing countries. The paper argues that the only solution to climate change is a rapid move towards a low-carbon economy, so that adaptation actions remain possible to implement.

[Adaptation to Climate Change: Building Resiliency and Reducing Vulnerability](#) by the Brookings Institute examines win-win strategies for development and adaptation in three key sectors—namely, ecosystems and natural resources, food and agriculture, and health—and focuses on interventions that will be valuable regardless of the uncertainties we face in determining precise climate change impacts.

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Plan for Climate Change](#) will help guide the Service's response to impacts such as changing wildlife migration patterns, the spread of invasive species, changing precipitation patterns and rising sea levels. While a critical first step to safeguarding U.S. natural resources, substantial new funding must come from Congress, or this plan will never be implemented. Public comments will be accepted through November 23rd.

Cool Websites and Blogs

[Community Based Adaptation \(CBA\) Exchange](#) is a shared online resource designed to bring together and grow the CBA community. It provides a site for the exchange of up-to-date information about community-based adaptation, including news, events, case-studies, tools, policy resources, and videos.

[Planet Green's Permaculture Principles](#) advances the ideas behind permaculture: using one element to achieve multiple functions, for example, chickens providing not just eggs, but also poop, bug control, and even tilling in the form of a chicken tractor.

[Center for Climate Strategies](#) is helping many public officials and stakeholders in the United States and other countries respond to the challenges posed by global warming and related opportunities for economic development, clean energy, and a safer environment. The CCS has created an interactive U.S. map that depicts the states that have created climate action plans and has links to the states' respective climate webpage.

[OnEarth.org](#) is an independent publication of the Natural Resources Defense Council that presents news on hot environmental topics. Check out this month's edition for a story on how climate change will increase the spread of novel diseases.

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.

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>