

**Robert Collier**

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**From:** Robert Collier [robert@sierranevadaalliance.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2009 11:15 AM  
**To:** robert@sierranevadaalliance.org  
**Subject:** Sierra Climate Change News August 2009



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

*Keeping light in the range.*

## Climate Change News August 2009

Including [Campaign Updates](#), [Taking Action for the Sierra](#), [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

**September 19 Great Sierra River Clean Up Day /Coastal Commission Clean Up Day.** Join the Alliance in cleaning the Upper Truckee River from 9am-12pm. Call 530-542-4546 x323 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

**September 8-10 [California Energy Commission/PIER Climate Change Research Symposium](#)** in Sacramento. Come hear the newest science on how climate change

**THE SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER**

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

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 will be available, so check the [website](#) for updated information.

**Final Day for the EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTED RATE:** Visit the [website](#) to the full agenda and complete the simple registration form.

**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](mailto:robert@sierranevadaalliance.org).

**SIERRA MEADOWS FORUM**

*Presented by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Sierra Nevada Alliance*

will impact California.

**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 more info (775)-887-7450.

**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.

**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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Thursday, October 15, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
North Tahoe Conference Center  
Kings Beach, CA

The Sierra Meadow Forum brings together experts and other interested stakeholders invested in meadow research and restoration from across the Sierra to share studies, information and advice on meadow science, meadow restoration approaches and building capacity and support for future meadow restoration.

The forum will also discuss the newly released National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's [Sierra Meadow Restoration Business Plan](#).

**For more information**, including a draft agenda, visit the [Sierra Meadow Forum website](#).

## **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](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](mailto:kay@sierranevadaalliance.org) 530-542-4546 ext 306

## **Taking Action for the Sierra**

### **Announcing the CoolCalifornia Small Business Award Program!**

**Who is Eligible?:** All California small businesses (under 100 employees) that can demonstrate climate leadership through a commitment to implementing and promoting climate friendly practices are eligible to apply for a CoolCalifornia Small Business Award.

**How are Winners Selected?:** This new award program will recognize multiple California small businesses from across the state that demonstrate climate leadership. Each business will be scored according to their climate change management practices and related communication strategies. Applicants will be eligible for one of two awards, up to 20 CoolCalifornia awards will be presented, and approximately five Small Business of the Year awards will be awarded to businesses that demonstrate exceptional achievement. All award recipients businesses will be featured on the CoolCalifornia.org website with links to the business' webpage.

The awards will be presented in November 2009 at the California Air Resources Board Headquarters in Sacramento. The closing date for applications is September 3, 2009, 5 p.m. PDT.

**How Do I Apply?:** The application form and more information on the CoolCalifornia Small Business Awards can be found at: <http://www.coolcalifornia.org/article/small-business-award-program>.

For more information, please contact Heather Choi at 916-322-3893 or [hchoi@arb.ca.gov](mailto:hchoi@arb.ca.gov).

**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](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](mailto:snap@sierranevadaalliance.org).
- Or visit [www.sierranevadaalliance.org](http://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: CALIFORNIA ADAPTATION STRATEGY RELEASED!**

A first-of-its-kind multi-sector strategy to help guide California's efforts in adapting to climate change impacts is now available for public comment. In cooperation and partnership with multiple state agencies, the [2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy Discussion Draft](#) summarizes the best known science on climate change impacts in seven specific sectors and provides recommendations on how to manage against those threats.

Led by the California Natural Resources Agency, numerous other state agencies were involved in the creation of discussion draft, including Environmental Protection; Business, Transportation and Housing; Health and Human Services; and the Department of Agriculture. The discussion draft focuses on sectors that include: Public Health; Biodiversity and Habitat; Ocean and Coastal Resources; Water Management; Agriculture; Forestry; and Transportation and Energy Infrastructure. The strategy is in direct response to Gov.

Schwarzenegger's November 2008 Executive Order S-13-08 that specifically asked the Natural Resources Agency to identify how state agencies can respond to rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, sea level rise, and extreme natural events. As data continues to be developed and collected, the state's adaptation strategy will be updated to reflect current findings.

The release of the draft document sets in motion a 45-day public comment period. The public is invited to comment on the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy Discussion Draft until **Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009**.

Comments can be submitted in writing to:

Adaptation  
Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Or by e-mailing [adaptation@resources.ca.gov](mailto:adaptation@resources.ca.gov).

Public comments are posted on this website after they are received and processed at:  
[www.climatechange.ca.gov/adapation/draft\\_public\\_comments/](http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/adapation/draft_public_comments/)

For information on California's Climate Adaptation Strategy efforts, please contact:

Adaptation Working Groups  
Kurt Malchow  
(916) 653-6333  
E-mail: [Kurt.Malchow@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Kurt.Malchow@resources.ca.gov)

## Climate Change News Articles

### **Local**

[Conditions ripe for climate change brawl](#) by John Gamman and Scott McCreary, Sacramento Bee, Aug. 16. As California's renewable energy future approaches, the construction and placement of infrastructure such as transmission lines, substations, and industrial scale renewable energy facilities has sparked debate amongst environmental groups.

### **State**

[Delta levee projects must now prepare for rising sea level](#) by Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee, Aug. 31. Levee projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta will have to account for rising sea levels under a new federal policy aimed at shorting up the region's main line of defense against climate change.

[California to lose crops to climate change by 2109](#) by Susan Kraemer, Eco Worldly, Jul. 26. A study published in PLoS has found that climactic conditions by the middle to end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will no longer support some of California's main tree crops.

[San Francisco, United Nations partner on global warming center](#) by Heather Knight, San Francisco Chronicle, Jul. 30. San Francisco's Hunters Point Shipyard will be the future home of a U.N. sponsored think tank to study global warming and other environmental crises.

[USGS: Large tree populations declining in Yosemite](#) by Jared Grisgby, AP, Jul. 29. Scientists with the USGS have said that there are fewer large-diameter trees growing in Yosemite National Park than in years past, most likely because of climate change.

[Amid water crisis, local farmers adapt](#) by Chris Bagley, North Coast Times, Aug. 9. The continuing drought may be accelerating farmers' long-term shift away from tree fruit and toward products with higher values, market niches, and opportunity for agri-tourism.

[Conserving water also cuts greenhouse gases](#) by Mike Reilly, PressDemocrat.com, Aug. 12. Twenty percent of all energy consumed in California is used moving water from one place to another. By following a series of simple steps to conserve water, consumers can reduce both their water use and emissions of greenhouse gases.

[Off-shore wind farms hold clean energy promise](#) by David Baker, San Francisco Chronicle, Aug. 3. A new floating windmill may be the solution to installing and utilizing wind driven renewable energy in the deep waters off of California's coast.

## **National**

[Damage, pollution from wildfires could surge as western U.S. warms](#) by the American Geophysical Union, Yuba Net, Jul. 28. A new study predicts that by 2055 wildfires in the western U.S. could scorch about 50% more land than they do now, causing a sharp decline in the region's air quality.

[Can national parks be saved from global warming?](#) by Margot Roosevelt, Los Angeles Time, Aug. 5.

According to a new report from the National Parks Conservation Association, the federal government must take decisive action to avoid catastrophic loss of animal and plant life in the country's national parks.

[Acid in the oceans: a growing threat to sea life](#) by Richard Harris, NPR.org, Aug. 12. When we burn fossil fuels, we are not just putting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. A lot of it goes into the sea. There, carbon dioxide turns into carbonic acid. And that turns ocean water corrosive, particularly to shellfish and corals.

[Senate climate bill to include free permits](#) by Richard Cowan, Reuters, Aug. 14. A climate bill that Democratic leaders hope to move through the U.S. Senate will seek to give companies a substantial number of pollution permits, potentially worth billions of dollars, rather than sell them.

## **International**

[U.N. seeks better data on hurricanes, droughts](#) by Alexander Higgins, San Francisco Chronicle, Aug. 31. In order to better adapt to increasing climate pressures, the developing world needs more advanced and innovative weather monitoring systems, such as cell phone towers equipped with weather stations, according to ex-U.N. chief Kofi Anan.

[Billions of beetles, wildfire spread imperil the northern forests of a warming world](#) by Charles Hanley, AP, Aug. 23. Beetles and fire are consuming northern forests in what scientists say is a preview of the future, in a century growing warmer, as the land grows drier, trees grow weaker and pests grow stronger.

[Climate change already visible on Greenland](#) by Irene Quaille, DW-World.de, Aug. 14. Greenland, an island that is 85% covered by ice, is already experiencing the effects of global warming. If all of the ice of Greenland's massive ice sheet were to melt, sea level would rise by 23 feet.

[China signals long term plans to curb greenhouse gases](#) by Rolfe Winkler, Reuters, Au. 13. A new report from the Chinese government cabinet, stresses the urgency of tackling climate change and calls for domestic objectives to control greenhouse emission, though it makes no mention of emissions cuts.

[UN chief warns of dire future without climate deal](#) by Reuters, Aug. 11. Failure to act quickly on climate change could eventually lead to violence and mass unrest as global weather patterns drastically change, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said recently.

[Climate change doubles tundra plant life](#) by Bob Weber, cnews.canoe.ca, Aug. 24. Climate change is already having a dramatic effect on plants in the High Arctic, turning the once rocky tundra a deep shade of green and creating what could be another mechanism for speeding up global warming.

## **Useful Reports and Resources**

[A Clear Blue Future](#) by NRDC. New NRDC and UC Santa Barbara analysis shows that implementing Low-Impact Development practices at new and redeveloped residential and commercial properties in parts of California can increase water supplies by billions of gallons each year, providing an effective and much-needed way to mitigate global warming's impact on the state.

[U.S. Geological Survey Arctic Sea Ice Images](#) allows the public to browse satellite images of sea ice breakup as evidence of dramatic and recent climate change.

[Climate Change, People, and Poverty](#) by Oxfam outlines evidence of how climate change is affecting every issue linked to poverty and development from access to food and water to health and security. The report argues that without immediate action on climate change, development gains in developing countries could be lost.

[Michigan's Climate Action Plan](#), published in March of this year, calls for dramatic reductions in the state's GHG emissions through a series of 54 policy recommendations. The plan calls for a 20% reduction of emissions below 2005 levels by 2025 and an 80% reduction by 2050. Recently, Michigan's Governor used the plan, and its goals, to guide her Executive Directive 2009-4, which mandates the emissions reductions identified in the Plan.

[Wildlife: A Survival Guide for a Warming World](#) by the National Parks Conservation Association is a report that outlines five steps for safeguarding wildlife from climate change and contains profiles of eleven species, including the Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged frog. The report also highlights dozens of national park stories.

[Climate Change 2009: Faster Change and More Serious Risks](#) reviews and synthesizes the science of climate change since the publication of the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (AR4). It emphasizes areas that have significant consequences for policy and management. The report focuses more strongly on issues of importance to Australia, and places them in a global context.

[Coming Soon – New York's Climate Action Plan](#): On August 6th, Governor David A. Paterson signed Executive Order No. 24 setting a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The New York Executive Order calls for a comprehensive, multi sector Climate Action Plan to be completed by a newly appointed Climate Action Council by September 30, 2010. The Plan will examine how actions in all economic sectors can reduce GHG emissions in the short- and mid-term, and adapt to a changing climate, including early action priorities and local and federal government integration.

## **Cool Websites and Blogs**

[America's Climate Choices](#) is a suite of studies designed to inform and guide responses to climate change across the nation. Experts representing various levels of government, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and research and academic institutions have been selected to serve on four panels and an overarching committee.

[Five ways California's Climate Law Will Boost the Economy](#) by Frances Beinecke looks at the numbers behind California's proactive climate legislation and lays out how it will reinforce, rather than detract from, the state's foundering economy.

[Seed to Plate](#) is an online tool that allows you to plan your own garden. The website's organic vegetable Plot Designer helps you create the perfect garden based on your personality, diet, amount of space, free time, and dislikes. You can also check out their sowing calendar, growing guides, and free online video lessons.

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](mailto: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>