

Robert Collier

From: Robert Collier [robert@sierranevadaalliance.org]
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2009 3:35 PM
To: robert@sierranevadaalliance.org
Subject: Sierra Climate Change News October 2009



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Climate Change News October 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

Events

December 9

[***Assembling California and Western Nevada: Point Reyes to Lake Tahoe.***](#)

A presentation by Dr. Eldridge Moores, UC Davis Professor of Geology from 5:30-7:30 at the Tahoe Environmental Research Center in Incline Village, NV.

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.

March 16-17 2010 5th
[***Biennial Tahoe Basin Science Conference.***](#)

The conference accepting abstracts until

The October 15th **Sierra Meadow Forum** was a huge success! Many thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for sponsoring the event and for introducing their newly released Business Plan for Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration. We had more than 120 stakeholders attend the Forum and engage in the stimulating discussions throughout the day. All of the materials from the Forum are now available on our website:

December 1. Contact Jonathan Long jwlong@fs.fed.us to

http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/programs/profile.shtml?index=1256318637_17097

The **Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Summit** on the following day was also very well received. Thank you to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for sponsoring the Summit. Close to 100 people with interests in their local IRWMP came from across the state to discuss current efforts, lessons learned, recent victories, and potential funding sources. We have posted the handouts and presentations from the Summit on our website: http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/programs/profile.shtml?index=1256169884_18096

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: 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.

Executive Director – Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth

Position: Executive Director on Contract

Location: Tulare County

About Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth: Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth (TCCRG) is a diverse group of local residents who came together early in 2006 due to concerns about the direction of growth in Tulare County. Reflecting the expressed values and wishes of our county's residents, we are working to ensure that future growth protects our local economy, communities and natural resources. TCCRG has more than 800 members and is actively engaged in campaigns around the Tulare County General Plan Update, the proposed Yokohl Ranch Development, and the adoption of an Oak Woodlands Management Plan for the County. The TCCRG Coordinating Committee is the decision making body of the group and comprised of 15 volunteer members. The Committee meets monthly. For more on TCCRG: www.tccrg.org.

Position Description: TCCRG seeks an individual to implement the strategic goals and objectives of the organization, work closely to implement the plans developed with the TCCRG Coordinating Committee, and to provide leadership in achieving the organization's philosophy, mission, strategy, annual goals and objectives. The position requires a highly organized and self-directed individual who shares TCCRG's vision of

responsible growth policies that provide a healthy, sustainable future for Tulare County. This position reports to both the five person TCCRG Executive Committee and to selected staff at the Sierra Nevada Alliance.

Major responsibilities: Help facilitate the creation and implementation of strategic long-range plans, annual work plans and campaign plans to achieve TCCRG's mission. Implementation activities include: volunteer retention and recruitment; coalition building and support; media outreach – including serving as the chief spokesperson for the organization; public education; public mobilization; campaign communication - including working with volunteers to produce a quarterly newsletter and update and improve the group's website; and fundraising activities (cultivation of individual donors as well as grant writing).

Required Qualifications: Experience managing/leading a campaign or program including recruiting, supporting and retaining volunteers. Demonstrated ability to mobilize community support. Strong event organizing skills and meeting facilitation skills. Ability to work with a variety of stakeholders, including local conservation leaders, statewide advocates, local government staff, and elected officials. Excellent writing and editing skills and strong interpersonal communication, public speaking, and telephone skills. Proficient computer skills, including the use of the Microsoft suite of programs (Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint) as well as with various email programs and the Internet. Own reliable transportation.

Compensation: This is an independent contractor position and can be part-time (20 hours a week or more) or full-time (40 hours per week). Full-time contract will range from \$35,000-45,000/year commensurate with experience. No health or insurance benefits provided.

How to Apply: The application process is open immediately. Interviews with qualified candidates will be arranged as soon as possible. Send a cover letter and resume to: tccrg.info@gmail.com (email preferred) or P.O. Box 1058, Three Rivers, CA 93271. Applicants are encouraged to contact Patricia Hickson at the Sierra Nevada Alliance with any questions: 530-542-4546 X 313 or email, patricia@sierranevadaalliance.org.

ADAPTATION SPOTLIGHT: NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION – SUPPORTING CLIMATE ADAPTATION

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that preserves and restores our nation's native wildlife species and habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. NFWF has identified addressing climate change adaptation as a priority area for investment and the foundation is already targeting its competitive grant-making to make strategic investments that will benefit fish and wildlife species that are vulnerable to climate change.

Recently, NFWF has released a Business Plan for Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration that maps out a 10-year program to restore and conserve meadow habitat as a strategy for climate change adaptation in the Sierra. As California's climate warms, more and more precipitation will fall as rain rather than snow which will run off immediately in large winter pulses that will increase flooding and are likely to be beyond the storage capacity of the existing reservoir system. Meanwhile, there will be much less snowmelt that recharges streams and helps keep a reliable water supply for people and wildlife in summer and autumn. Restored meadows provide an innovative solution to these challenging issues. Meadows can act as natural reservoirs that attenuate floods and slowly release retained water during the dry late summer period. Healthy meadows are also support sensitive species and local agrarian economies by providing sustainable grazing lands for livestock. By funding meadow restoration in the Sierra, NFWF is hoping to implement a multi-benefit climate change adaptation strategy.

In addition to its Business Plan for Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration, NFWF has also identified several critical areas for investment that could be further developed through dedicated federal funding:

- **Freshwater** - Constrained freshwater supplies are an increasing source of conflict that will continue to grow as human population increases and precipitation and snowmelt patterns change. NFWF looks to invest in initiatives that provide public benefits such as groundwater stabilization, restoration of in-

stream river flow for fish species, improved water quality and wildlife habitat, and enhanced aesthetic values, all of which foster increased recreation, tourism and other economic benefits.

- Sierra Nevada Meadow and Water Flow Restoration (click [here](#) to see materials from the 2009 Sierra Nevada Meadow Forum, convened by the Sierra Nevada Alliance and sponsored by NFWF)
- Columbia River Basin Water Transactions
- **Natural Coastal Defenses** - Coastal marshes and wetlands, coral and oyster reefs, and barrier islands offer the lowest cost solutions to reduce the impacts of sea level rise and more frequent hurricanes on American lives and property.
 - Coral Reefs
 - Oyster Reef Restoration and Protection
- **Critical Wildlife Extinctions** - Not all wildlife is equally imperiled by climate change. We can best maintain the largest assemblage of American wildlife diversity by focusing on critical habitats that are endangered and by preserving and expanding opportunities for animals to move and migrate and thus facilitate their ability to naturally respond to a changing climate.
 - Wildlife Movement and Migration
 - Fish Passage
- **Renewable Domestic Energy Production and Transmission** - Opportunities to expand renewable energy and the transmission corridors needed to connect new renewable energy to the existing energy grid overlap within the distributions of many endangered species. Finding a way to mitigate impacts on wildlife and benefit their populations while speeding corridor construction is a critical need. In addition, some new energy sources have the potential to dramatically benefit wildlife and their habitats.
 - Prairie Coteau biofuels and grasslands
 - Wind Power
 - Transmission Corridors (future interest)

To find out more about NFWF and these other grant opportunities, go to: www.nfwf.org

[Climate Change News Articles](#)

Local

[Anti-erosion project helps protect Lake Tahoe](#) by AP, Oct. 24. Tahoe anti-erosion project incorporates climate change considerations.

State

[State is rated tops on energy efficiency](#) by Jim Downing, Sacramento Bee, Oct. 23. California again ranked as the state with the most aggressive energy-efficiency policies in an annual scorecard released this week by the nonprofit American Council for an Energy- Efficient Economy.

[Carbon offsets protocol unlikely to satisfy competing interests](#) by A. Moir and S.Brandt-Erichsen, Marten Law Group, Sep. 30. California-based Climate Action Reserve (“CAR”) has released version 3.0 of its Forest Project Protocol, which allows forest lands located anywhere in the country to generate carbon offset credits by following CAR’s accounting and verification procedures.

[California timber firm to market its forests as weapon against global warming](#) by Eric Bailey, Los Angeles Times, Oct. 1. The state’s largest timber company, Sierra Pacific Industries, announced a groundbreaking agreement to begin marketing its vast forests as a weapon in the fight against global warming.

[California has third highest wind capacity of U.S. states](#) by Tiffany Hsu, Los Angeles Times, Oct. 20. California has the third-highest amount of total operating wind capacity in the country, according to the American Wind Energy Assn.’s third-quarter report. The state can produce up to 2.8 gigawatts, behind Texas, with 8.8 gigawatts, and Iowa with 3 gigawatts.

National

[Federal scientists: limit offshore drilling plans](#) by Jim Tankersley and Josh Meyer, Los Angeles Times, Oct. 12. The federal government’s top ocean scientists at NOAA are urging the Interior Department to drastically

reduce plans to open the coast to offshore oil and gas drilling, citing threats to marine life and potentially devastating effects of oil spills in Arctic waters.

[New storage eyed as Colorado confronts more people and less water](#) by Allen Best, Summit Daily, Oct. 19. With demographers forecasting 35 percent more people in Colorado by 2035 and climate scientists predicting 15 percent less water available in the Colorado River Basin by mid-century, public officials, business groups, and environmental organizations have been talking about additional dams and reservoirs to augment water supply.

[Boxer unveils sweeping climate change bill](#) by Mike Zapler, San Jose Mercury News, Sep. 30. Sen. Barbara Boxer has unveiled ambitious legislation to slash the nation's use of carbon-emitting fossil fuels and reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil. The bill would mandate that carbon emissions be cut by 20 percent from 2005 levels by 2020, a more aggressive target than the 17 percent reduction in a similar bill passed by the House in June.

[Global warming blamed for Aspen die-off around the west](#) by Nicholas Riccardi, Los Angeles Times, Oct. 18. From the hillsides of extinct volcanoes in Arizona to the jagged peaks of Idaho, aspen trees are falling by the tens of thousands, the latest example of how climate change is dramatically altering the American West

[World's largest wind farm completed in Texas by E.ON Renewables](#) by Matthew McDermott, Treehugger, Oct. 1. E.ON Climate & Renewables has announced the completion of the 781.5 megawatt Roscoe wind complex, which is expected to generate enough power for more than 230,000 average homes.

International

[Water scarcity will create global security concerns](#) by Dick Jones Communications, Oct. 6. Water scarcity as a result of climate change will create far-reaching global security concerns, says Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, chair of the intergovernmental panel on climate change, a co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

[Last time carbon dioxide levels were this high: 15 million years ago scientists report](#) by UCLA, PhysOrg.com, Oct. 8. The last time carbon dioxide levels were apparently as high as they are today, global temperatures were 5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit higher than they are today, the sea level was approximately 75 to 120 feet higher than today, there was no permanent sea ice cap in the Arctic and very little ice on Antarctica and Greenland.

[U.S. may not make CO2 emissions pledge Pershing says](#) by Daniel Ten Kate and Alex Morales, Bloomberg News, Oct. 9. The U.S. may not agree to cut greenhouse-gas emissions in a new treaty this year because there is no domestic law setting a framework, the country's top negotiator said at United Nations climate talks in Bangkok.

[Maldives sends climate SOS with undersea cabinet](#) by Maryam Omid, Reuters, Oct. 17. The Maldivian president and ministers held the world's first underwater cabinet meeting on Saturday, in a symbolic cry for help over rising sea levels that threaten the tropical archipelago's existence.

[Voluntary CO2 market not netting emissions cuts](#) by Nina Chestney, Reuters, Oct. 13. The market for companies choosing to offset their carbon footprints is not achieving meaningful emissions cuts yet, market players said at a carbon industry conference in London.

Useful Reports and Resources

[2009 Climate Change Science Compendium](#) reviews the 400 major climate studies published since the 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and said that the world is warming more rapidly than the panel's mainstream projections and concludes that the rapid buildup of greenhouse gases has most likely committed the world to a warming of 1.4 to 4.3 degrees C " 2.5 to 7.7 degrees F " by 2100.

[The Changing Range of Light: Portraits of the Sierra Nevada](#) by Elizabeth Carmel combines remarkable landscape photography with important information about how the depicted landscapes are threatened by climate change. This collection of photographs captures both the intimate details and grand panoramas that exist exclusively in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California.

[Linking Urban Development and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in a Small City: An Approach in Cuenca Spain](#) by Pablo Vaggione and Elda Solloso studies the approach of Cuenca, Spain in promoting sustainable urbanization. Cuenca brings together nature and culture, ranking first in Spain and second in Europe in terms of municipal area covered by forest, and its historic core being listed as UNESCO World Heritage site. This paper identifies viable, sustainable urban development strategies promoted by a small city in order to contribute both to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Special emphasis is given to strategies than draw linkages with local economic development and improved urban livability.

[Good Morning America: The Explosive U.S. Awakening to the Need for Adaptation](#) provides an historical overview of the public, political, and scientific concern with adaptation in the United States. It describes the shift from the early concerns with climate change and adaptation to the more recent awakening to the need for a comprehensive approach to managing the risks from climate change.

[Climate Change: Designing Adaptation Policy](#) by the Adaptation to Climate Change Team of Simon Fraser University contributes to the development of Canadian climate adaptation policies targeted at extreme weather events. It is primarily concerned with community climate adaptation. The report analyses two sectors that are particularly sensitive to extreme weather events - emergency management and infrastructure - and identifies specific adaptation actions in these areas.

[Water Resources, Climate Change, and Human Vulnerability](#) by C.A. Sullivan and C. Huntington focuses on the impact of climate change on water resources and the affect it has on human society. It develops a model (climate vulnerability index) to link the climate and social sciences in a policy oriented approach. The paper makes a holistic assessment of human vulnerability to climate and other drivers of social change.

[Wind and Solar Electricity: Opportunities and Challenges](#) by Paul Komor (University of Colorado Boulder) examines three primary obstacles to deployment of wind and solar power: cost, variability of generation, and lack of transmission. It explains these challenges, explores policy options for addressing them, and describes the implications of future scenarios that entail significantly higher levels of electricity generation from wind and solar power.

[California Air Resources Board Climate Change Program newsletter](#). This quarterly newsletter provides updates on California's efforts to combat climate change, as well as major events taking place on the national front. Head to [CARB's website](#) to sign up for this newsletter (and others).

[World Wildlife Fund: A New Climate Deal](#) is a pocket guide that reviews climate change science and the current policy landscape, and advocates for the strong action that should be taken in Copenhagen this December.

[ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability's Guide to Recovery Act Opportunities in California](#): ICLEI USA's California Team has created this extensive guide to help California local governments quickly find the right American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)- funded opportunities that are available through the California Energy Commission (CEC), the Department of Energy (DOE), and other sources.

Cool Websites and Blogs

[Placer Sustain](#) is an organization whose mission is to make Placer County more sustainable for the benefit of future generations. The organization strives to interweave the spheres of food, nutrition, and health; local sustainable economies; the environment; sustainable development; arts and culture; community building; energy; and equity and justice. So far Placer Sustain has connected existing community organizations such as the Sierra Nevada Alliance, Placer Grown, the Sierra Business Council, and the Placer Arts Council. Visit Placer Sustain's work-in-progress [website](#) for more information on how you can get involved or learn from what they have done!

[The Center for Climate Action](#) is a new program of the Climate Action Reserve that works to advance climate action by bringing together industry, government, NGOs and issue experts to discuss emerging climate issues and work toward policy-oriented solutions. The Center for Climate Action is a membership-based organization that provides its members with extensive webinar series. Until 2010 these webinars are free of charge so head to the Center's website and take advantage of this limited-time free resource.

[UK Climate Change Map](#) highlights the likely effects on the planet of future global temperature rise as a result of climate change. The interactive map illustrates key issues that people around the world will face. Click [here](#) to learn more about the map!

[Fun Educational Tools for Adaptation](#) is a list of games and activities that can be used to educate others about climate change. Check out online games such as Operation Climate Control, PowerUp, and Winds of Change. Have fun!

[Green Building Materials Guide](#) by PlanetGreen will help guide you through the process of finding green materials for every green project in your home. This guide will give you suggestions for the best insulations, kitchen appliances, and HVAC options.

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](#).

To Subscribe to this list, email in info@sierranevadaalliance.org with Subject: Subscribe Climate Change News

To Unsubscribe to this list, email info@sierranevadaalliance.org with Subject: Unsubscribe Climate Change News

Robert W. Collier
Americorps Member
Water and Climate Change Program Assistant
Sierra Nevada Alliance
P.O. Box 7989, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158
Phone: (530)-542-4546 Ext. 323
Fax: (530)-542-4570
robert@sierranevadaalliance.org
www.sierranevadaalliance.org

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>