

Robert Collier

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



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Climate Change News November 2009

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

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[Campaign Updates](#)

[Alliance Events](#)

December 1 Join the Sierra Nevada Alliance for its annual **Holiday Party** at the American Legion Hall in South Lake Tahoe from 4pm-7pm. Call (530)-542-4546 for more details.

[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.

January 30 [PCL's 2010 Environmental Legislative Symposium](#) Greening California's Landscape: Smart Solutions for a

[2009 Sierra Conservation Directory Available Online!](#) This is a directory of organizations that work on conservation issues in the Sierra Nevada. The Sierra Nevada Alliance prepared this directory to assist Sierra conservation organizations, agencies, interested public and the media with locating and contacting conservation organizations in the region. It should also be used as informational resource for those interested in learning more about the kind of conservation work being undertaken throughout the Sierra Nevada.

If your organization is missing from the Directory but you'd like to be included we're happy to add you! Please email Patricia at the Sierra Nevada Alliance: patricia@sierranevadaalliance.org for a Directory template.

Job Opportunity in the Sierra!

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.

New Era. Click on the link for more information and a full agenda.

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

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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: tcrg.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 WILDLIFE FEDERATION

With over 4 million members and supporters across the county, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is the largest private, non-profit conservation education and advocacy organization in the U.S. Since its inception in 1937, NWF has been fighting to keep free roaming wildlife and healthy habitats part of Americans' lives and the country's unique character. As NWF's mission becomes more difficult to fulfill with increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and dramatic species migration, the organization has made its climate change program a top priority.

According to NWF's website, "global warming is the single biggest threat to wildlife and wild places... [and] the impacts of global warming, caused by increased carbon pollution, are already being felt." Like many organizations working on climate issues, NWF has adopted the two-prong approach of pursuing mitigation and adaptation as equal solutions to the climate crisis. In tandem with advocating for strong national limits on greenhouse gas emissions, NWF is helping wildlife managers understand how to weave climate change adaptation into their planning documents.

Through a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NWF has developed a series of web conferences designed to increase the transfer of scientific knowledge between conservation professionals regarding the challenges that climate change presents. Natural resource managers such as the National Fish and Wildlife Service are often confronted with difficult decisions concerning their management choices when considering climate models. The partnership hopes that participants of the online webinars will share information about the rapidly developing tools and processes for evaluating the future effects that climate change will have on species and ecosystems. The four-part online series began in July 2009 and continued through December of that year, covering the following topics:

- 1) Global warming communications overview
- 2) Introduction to the National Climate Change and Wildlife Service Center
- 3) Place-based climate change adaptation: overcoming the paralysis of uncertainty
- 4) Adapting conservation and management to climate change.

The four webinars not only provide the tools necessary to assess the impacts of climate change, they also arm wildlife managers with strategies to actually implement adaptation planning at the local level. The next webinar will be on December 2nd, 2009. Click [here](#) for more information about the upcoming webinar and for instructions on how to access past webinars.

For more information about what NWF is doing to encourage climate adaptation planning, contact Naomi Edelson at edelsonN@nwf.org.

Climate Change News Articles

Sierra

[Bristlecone's growth may reflect global warming](#) by David Perlman, San Francisco Chronicle, Nov. 17.

Bristlecone pines, those ancient and iconic trees on many of California's mountaintops, reflect the impact of global warming by growing faster in the past fifty years than at any time in the past thousands of years.

[Arctic warming linked with California droughts](#) by Wayne Freedman, ABC News, Nov. 11. New geological studies of stalagmites in Sierra Nevada caves reveal a direct connection between warming arctic temperatures and increased drought conditions in California.

State

[Global warming: California pushes ahead](#) by Margot Roosevelt, Los Angeles Times, Nov. 19. In a milestone for the state's landmark plan to slash emissions by 15% over the next 11 years from today's levels, the Air

Resources Board announced today that more than 97% of the state's 605 largest factories, cement plants, refineries and power plants have reported how much carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases they emit. [Conservation is seen as key to dealing with state's water woes](#) by Bettina Boxall, Los Angeles Times, Nov. 24. Compared to building new reservoirs, recycling or seawater desalination, conservation is one of the cheapest, quickest and least environmentally damaging ways for the state to get more water.

National

[Las Vegas gambles with an uncertain water future](#) by Lauren Morello, New York Times, Nov. 10. The Hoover Dam is a symbol of human engineering might, but these days not much water is being stored behind the dam's concrete arch – a predicament that climate change will further complicate.

[A hunt for seeds to save species](#) by Anne Raver, New York Times, Nov. 9. Scientists are attempting to collect seeds from 3,000 prairie species by 2020 across the US. The goal is to preserve the species and potentially help them migrate to a new range.

[Record high U.S. temps outpace record lows](#) by Deborah Zabarenko, Reuters, Nov. 12. Climate scientists are reporting twice as many record-high temperatures in the United States as record lows over the last decade.

[Colorado river drops to a record low-flow](#) by Bob Berwyn, Summit Daily News, Nov. 22. The flow of the Colorado river is at its lowest point on record as the world continues to face rising temperatures and decreasing Arctic ice cover.

[U.S. group sees worsening coastal flooding threat](#) by Richard Cowan, Reuters, Nov. 19. Fast-melting ice from Greenland and Antarctica will lead to dramatic sea level rise and cause flooding that will radically alter U.S. cities from Miami to Baltimore.

International

[Copenhagen's missing ingredient: water](#) by James Workman, Los Angeles Times, Nov. 30. Scientists stress water's profound link with climate change, and how wise water management could bind global efforts to cool our warming planet with local efforts to absorb its unavoidable shocks. Yet our delegates have erased water from their working draft, forgetting how water is the planet's one common denominator.

[Obama backs two-step plan to reach climate deal](#) by John Chalmers, Reuters, Nov. 15. President Barack Obama has backed a plan by the host of next month's climate change talks in Copenhagen to seek a political deal and leave legally binding decisions for later, a U.S. official said on Sunday.

[Greenland ice loss accelerating](#) by Richard Black, BBC News, Nov. 12. A new study confirms that the Greenland ice sheet is losing its mass faster than in previous years and is making an increasing contribution to sea level rise.

[Deal breaker for climate treaty may be Obama's Congress](#) by Alex Morales and Kim Chipman, Bloomberg.com, Oct. 27. Obama may send empty-handed envoys in December to the table in Copenhagen where 192 countries will try to assign emissions reductions because Congress has given him no mandate.

[Turtles are casualties of warming in Costa Rica](#) by Elisabeth Rosenthal, New York Times, Nov. 13. Climate change may deal the fatal blow to the Leatherback sea turtle, an animal that has dwelled in the Pacific for 150 million years.

[Looking for a solution to reign in cows' climate problem](#) by Fiona MacKay, New York Times, Nov. 16. A recent report for the World Watch Institute estimates that livestock production accounts for 51 percent of total world greenhouse gas emissions, when the entire life cycle and supply chain of the livestock industry is taken into consideration.

Useful Reports and Resources

[Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan](#) released for public comment on October 9, 2009, consists of 52 climate policy actions (42 quantified) with the potential to provide a net gain of \$5.13 billion in GSP and 54,000 new jobs for the state of Pennsylvania by the year 2020 based on macroeconomic analysis using the Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) PI+ Model.

[Hidden Costs of Energy](#) defines and evaluates key external costs and benefits that are associated with the production, distribution, and use of energy, but not reflected in market prices. In aggregate, the damage estimates presented here are substantial, and reflect damages from air pollution associated with electricity generation, motor vehicle transportation, and heat generation. The book also considers other effects not quantified in dollar amounts, such as damages from climate change, effects of some air pollutants such as

mercury, and risks to national security.

[Climate change in Google Earth](#) allows you to visually explore the impacts of climate change as identified in the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report.

[Adaptation Finance Under a Copenhagen Agreed Outcome](#) provides a comprehensive reporting and analysis of the issues and principles underlying impasse on climate adaptation finance, as well as the most current proposals and options on adaptation financing available. This report presents options for overcoming obstacles and reaching an agreement on adaptation financing as part of a Copenhagen Agreed Outcome at COP 15 in Copenhagen in December, 2009. It submits that such an agreement on adaptation financing is in fact vital to reaching a post-2012 international agreement on climate change.

[The Psychology of Climate Change Communication](#) details many of the biases and barriers to scientific communication and information processing. It offers a tool—in combination with rigorous science, innovative engineering, and effective policy design—to help our societies take the pivotal actions needed to respond with urgency and accuracy to one of the greatest challenges ever faced by humanity: global-scale, human-induced environmental threats, of which the most complex and far reaching is climate change.

[Southern Regional Economic Assessment of Climate Policy Options and Review of Economic Studies of Climate Policy](#) presents economy- and region-wide opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and evaluates their projected potential financial costs or savings. Prepared by The Center for Climate Strategies (CCS), the report was commissioned as part of Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine's 2008-09 SGA Chairman's initiative that focused on engaging the region's governors in a dialogue about how best to understand and address climate change issues in the South.

Cool Websites and Blogs

[The National Academies America's Climate Choices: Adaptation Panel](#) will describe, analyze, and assess actions and strategies to reduce vulnerability, increase adaptive capacity, improve resiliency, and promote successful adaptation to climate change in different regions, sectors, systems, and populations. The panel will draw on existing reports and assessments and use case studies to identify lessons learned from past experiences, promising current approaches, and potential new directions.

[No Impact Man](#) is a blog by Colin Beavan about what individuals can do to end the current environmental crisis, make a better place to live for ourselves and everyone else, and come up with a happier way of life. Colin writes about his (and his family's) year living a close to zero impact lifestyle in New York City.

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>