

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung
benefit trust or private foundation)

▶ The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2012**Open to Public
Inspection****A For the 2012 calendar year, or tax year beginning****, and ending****B Check if applicable:**

- ☒ Address change
- ☐ Name change
- ☐ Initial return
- ☐ Terminated
- ☐ Amended return
- ☐ Application pending

C Name of organization

The Sierra Fund

Doing Business As

Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)

Room/suite

206 Sacramento Street

101

City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code

Nevada City

CA

95959

D Employer identification number

68-0485725

E Telephone number

(530) 265-8454

G Gross receipts \$

453,464

F Name and address of principal officer:

Elizabeth Martin 206 Sacramento Street #101, Nevada City, CA 95959

H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates?☐ Yes ☒ No**H(b) Are all affiliates included?**☐ Yes ☐ No

If "No," attach a list. (see instructions)

I Tax-exempt status:☒ 501(c)(3)☐ 501(c)

()

(insert no.)

☐ 4947(a)(1) or☐ 527**J Website: ▶ www.sierrafund.org****H(c) Group exemption number ▶****K Form of organization:**☒ Corporation☐ Trust☐ Association☐ Other ▶**L Year of formation:**

2001

M State of legal domicile:

CA

Part I Summary

Activities & Governance	1	Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: <u>The Sierra Fund is a non-profit community foundation providing philanthropic stewardship and charitable services to support environmental conservation in the Sierra Nevada region. We partner with private donors and public agencies to increase investment in land, air, water, human resources.</u>		
	2	Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
	3	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	5
	4	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	5
	5	Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2012 (Part V, line 2a)	5	6
	6	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	0
	Revenue	7a	Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a
b		Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	0
8		Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year	Current Year
9		Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	996,586	428,272
10		Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	4,093	22,592
Expenses	11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	1,526	2,600
	12	Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1,002,205	453,464
	13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	100,869	46,650
	14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)		0
	15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	301,720	270,285
	16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)		0
	b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 21,725		
	17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	592,984	193,540
	18	Total expenses. Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	995,573	510,475
	19	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	6,632	-57,011
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20	Total assets (Part X, line 16)	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
	21	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	491,797	520,252
	22	Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	27,707	113,175

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here

Signature of officer

Elizabeth Martin

CEO

Date

11/4/13

Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name

Tonya Lindsey

Preparer's signature

[Signature]

Date

11/2/13

Check ☐ if self-employed

PTIN

800232367

Firm's name ▶

A One Bookkeeping & Tax

Firm's EIN ▶ 47-0886631

Firm's address ▶

80304 934 Nevada City, CA 95959

Phone no. 530-470-0100

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions)

☒ Yes ☐ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Form **990** (2012)

Part III**Statement of Program Service Accomplishments**

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part III

☒ X**1** Briefly describe the organization's mission:

The Sierra Fund is a non-profit community foundation providing philanthropic stewardship and charitable services to support environmental conservation in the Sierra Nevada region. We partner with private donors and public agencies to increase and organize investment in land, air, water, and human resources in the Sierra Nevada

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.**4a** (Code:) (Expenses \$ 304,901 including grants of \$ 3,850) (Revenue \$ 280,309)

Mining & ISIS (Integrated Sierra Investment Strategy) Programs: The Sierra Fund's "Mining Toxic Legacy Initiative" is aimed at increasing public awareness for the on-going impacts of a century and a half of gold mining in the Sierra Nevada. The Sierra Fund's Mining Legacy Initiative has taken major steps in increasing coordination to address the on-going impacts of abandoned mines in the Sierra, including convening our Mining Toxins Working Group. ISIS is the Sierra Fund's general program which provides strategic assistance to support organizations throughout the Sierra Nevada.

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ 50,430 including grants of \$ 42,800) (Revenue \$ 64,188)

Philanthropic Services: Donor Advised Funds- The Sierra Fund provides a philanthropic vehicle for donors committed to the Sierra Nevada. We have five donor advised funds that provide funding to crucial efforts in the Sierra and beyond, and one memorial fund with a mission to further the values of one of our founding Board members.

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ 5,119 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$ 6,746)

Philanthropic Services: Art on Site- Another aspect of our philanthropic vehicle is the ability to provide pass through management for projects such as Art on Site. The Art on Site project is a community project established to promote and install art along the Tribute Trail. Several well known artists were chosen and each created an art exhibit for installation along the trail. The project is slated for completion in 2014.

4d Other program services. (Describe in Schedule O.)

(Expenses \$ 58,041 including grants of \$ 0) (Revenue \$ 16,601)

4e Total program service expenses ▶ 418,491

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1. Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A	☒	☐
2. Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors (see instructions)?	☒	☐
3. Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I	☐	☒
4. Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II	☐	☒
5. Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	☐	☒
6. Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I	☒	☐
7. Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II	☐	☒
8. Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III	☐	☒
9. Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV	☐	☒
10. Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V	☐	☒
11. If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.		
a. Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI	☐	☒
b. Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII	☐	☒
c. Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII	☐	☒
d. Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX	☐	☒
e. Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	☐	☒
f. Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	☐	☒
12a. Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII	☐	☒
b. Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional	☐	☒
13. Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E	☐	☒
14a. Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	☐	☒
b. Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV	☐	☒
15. Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or assistance to any organization or entity located outside the United States? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV	☐	☒
16. Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or assistance to individuals located outside the United States? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV	☐	☒
17. Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions)	☐	☒
18. Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II	☐	☒
19. Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III	☐	☒
20a. Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H	☐	☒
b. If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	☐	☐

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

	Yes	No
21. Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to any government or organization in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II.</i>	X	
22. Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III.</i>		X
23. Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J.</i>		X
24a. Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25.</i>		X
b. Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		X
c. Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		
d. Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		
25a. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I.</i>		X
b. Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I.</i>		X
26. Was a loan to or by a current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, highest compensated employee, or disqualified person outstanding as of the end of the organization's tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II.</i>		X
27. Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III.</i>		X
28. Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
a. A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV.</i>		X
b. A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV.</i>		X
c. An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV.</i>		X
29. Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M.</i>		X
30. Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M.</i>		X
31. Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I.</i>		X
32. Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II.</i>		X
33. Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I.</i>		X
34. Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1.</i>		X
35a. Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		X
b. If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2.</i>		
36. Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2.</i>		X
37. Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI.</i>		X
38. Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O.	X	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax ComplianceCheck if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part V. ☐

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable.	1a	10
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable.	1b	0
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	1c	X
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return.	2a	6
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file. (see instructions)	2b	X
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	3a	X
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	3b	
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	4a	X
b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: See instructions for filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.		
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a	X
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b	X
c	If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?	5c	
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions?	6a	X
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b	
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).		
a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7a	X
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b	X
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c	X
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year.	7d	
e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7e	X
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	7f	X
g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7g	
h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?	7h	
8	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations. Did the supporting organization, or a donor advised fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8	X
9	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.		
a	Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a	X
b	Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	9b	X
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12.	10a	
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities.	10b	
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter:		
a	Gross income from members or shareholders.	11a	
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)	11b	
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a	
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year.	12b	
13	Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.		
a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? Note. See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.	13a	
b	Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans.	13b	
c	Enter the amount of reserves on hand.	13c	
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?	14a	X
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O.	14b	

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions. Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VI. ☒

Section A. Governing Body and Management

	Yes	No
1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year	5	
If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O.		
1b Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent	5	
2 Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		X
3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		X
4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?		X
5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?		X
6 Did the organization have members or stockholders?		X
7a Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?		X
b Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?		X
8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
a The governing body?	X	
b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	X	
9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O		X

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

	Yes	No
10a Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?		X
b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?		
11a Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	X	
b Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.		
12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13.	X	
b Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	X	
c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	X	
13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	X	
14 Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	X	
15 Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official.	X	
b Other officers or key employees of the organization		
If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions).		
16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		X
b If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?		

Section C. Disclosure

17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed **CA**

18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (Section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.
☒ Own website ☒ Another's website ☒ Upon request ☒ Other (explain in Schedule O)

19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how), the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.

20 State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization: **A-One Bookkeeping & Tax** (530) 470-0100
 PO Box 934, Nevada City, CA 95959

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

 Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VII. ☐
Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee, or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

☐ Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) Patty Brissenden Chair		X								
(2) John Regan Treasurer		X								
(3) Alison Harvey Secretary		X								
(4) Esther Feldman		X								
(5) Dr. Lisa Thompson		X								
(6) Elizabeth Martin CEO	40.00 0.00			X				80,535		
(7)										
(8)										
(9)										
(10)										
(11)										
(12)										
(13)										
(14)										

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(15)										
(16)										
(17)										
(18)										
(19)										
(20)										
(21)										
(22)										
(23)										
(24)										
(25)										
1b Sub-total								80,535	0	0
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A								0	0	0
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)								80,535	0	0

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization **0**

- 3** Did the organization list any **former** officer, director, or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual
- 4** For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual
- 5** Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person

	Yes	No
3		X
4		X
5		X

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
		0
		0
		0
		0
		0

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization **0**

Part VIII Statement of RevenueCheck if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VIII. ☐

				(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512, 513, or 514
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a Federated campaigns	1a	0				
	b Membership dues	1b	0				
	c Fundraising events	1c	12,400				
	d Related organizations	1d	0				
	e Government grants (contributions)	1e	0				
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	415,872				
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f: \$		0				
	h Total. Add lines 1a-1f			428,272			
Program Service Revenue	Business Code						
	2a			0			
	b			0			
	c			0			
	d			0			
	e			0			
	f All other program service revenue			0			
	g Total. Add lines 2a-2f			0			
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)			22,592	22,592		
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds			0			
	5 Royalties			0			
		(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
	6a Gross rents						
	b Less: rental expenses						
	c Rental income or (loss)	0	0				
	d Net rental income or (loss)			0			
	7a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other				
		0	0				
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	0	0				
	c Gain or (loss)	0	0				
	d Net gain or (loss)			0			
	8a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ 0 of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	a	0				
	b Less: direct expenses	b	0				
	c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events		0				
	9a Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	a	0				
	b Less: direct expenses	b	0				
	c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities		0				
	10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a	0				
b Less: cost of goods sold	b	0					
c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory		0					
Miscellaneous Revenue			Business Code				
11a Refunds			1,676	1,676			
b Misc			924	924			
c			0				
d All other revenue			0				
e Total. Add lines 11a-11d			2,600				
12 Total revenue. See instructions			453,464	25,192	0	0	

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part IX

☒ X**Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.**

	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States. See Part IV, line 21	46,150	46,150		
2 Grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States. See Part IV, line 22	500	500		
3 Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the United States. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16	0			
4 Benefits paid to or for members	0			
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	80,535	64,429	8,053	8,053
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)	0			
7 Other salaries and wages	150,956	103,829	37,619	9,508
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	3,300	2,277	693	330
9 Other employee benefits	15,212	10,496	3,195	1,521
10 Payroll taxes	20,282	13,995	4,259	2,028
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management	42,180	42,180		
b Legal	0			
c Accounting	0			
d Lobbying	0			
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17	0			
f Investment management fees	0			
g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O.)	78,024	73,094	4,930	
12 Advertising and promotion	985	855	130	
13 Office expenses	14,803	11,671	2,878	254
14 Information technology	7,840	3,179	4,661	
15 Royalties	0			
16 Occupancy	13,701	12,331	1,370	
17 Travel	6,192	5,720	441	31
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials	0			
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	17,801	17,801		
20 Interest	0			
21 Payments to affiliates	0	0	0	0
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	4,410	2,448	1,962	
23 Insurance				
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a Bank Fees	118	50	68	
b Unrealized change in value	7,486	7,486		
c	0			
d	0			
e All other expenses	0			
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	510,475	418,491	70,259	21,725
26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here ☐ if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance SheetCheck if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part X. ☐

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	211,875	1	104,810
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	31,735	2	139,268
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net	0	3	0
	4 Accounts receivable, net	52,260	4	70,432
	5 Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L		5	
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions). Complete Part II of Schedule L		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net	0	7	0
	8 Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		9	
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D 10a 0			
	b Less: accumulated depreciation 10b 0	0	10c	0
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities	195,927	11	204,002
	12 Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11	0	12	0
	13 Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11	0	13	0
	14 Intangible assets	0	14	0
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	0	15	1,740
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	491,797	16	520,252	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	12,707	17	8,366
	18 Grants payable		18	
	19 Deferred revenue		19	80,218
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22 Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L		22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	0	23	0
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties	15,000	24	24,591
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D	0	25	0
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	27,707	26	113,175
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ☐ and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.			
	27 Unrestricted net assets		27	
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets		28	
	29 Permanently restricted net assets		29	
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC958), check here ☒ and complete lines 30 through 34.			
	30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		30	
	31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		31	
	32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds	464,090	32	407,077
	33 Total net assets or fund balances	464,090	33	407,077
	34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	491,797	34	520,252

Part XI Reconciliation of Net AssetsCheck if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XI ☐

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	453,464
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	510,475
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	-57,011
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	464,090
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	-2
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	407,077

Part XII Financial Statements and ReportingCheck if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XII ☐

- 1** Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: ☐ Cash ☒ Accrual ☐ Other _____
If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O.

- 2a** Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?
If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both:
☐ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis

- b** Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?
If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both:
☐ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separate basis

- c** If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?
If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.

- 3a** As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?

- b** If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits

	Yes	No
2a		X
2b		X
2c		X
3a		X
3b		

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public
Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

▶ See separate instructions.

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

68-0485725

The Sierra Fund

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box.)

- 1 ☐ A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).
- 2 ☐ A school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii). (Attach Schedule E.)
- 3 ☐ A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).
- 4 ☐ A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii). Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: _____
- 5 ☐ An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv). (Complete Part II.)
- 6 ☐ A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).
- 7 ☐ An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). (Complete Part II.)
- 8 ☐ A community trust described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). (Complete Part II.)
- 9 ☒ An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See section 509(a)(2). (Complete Part III.)
- 10 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See section 509(a)(4).
- 11 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2). See section 509(a)(3). Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h.
- a ☐ Type I b ☐ Type II c ☐ Type III—Functionally integrated d ☐ Type III—Non-functionally integrated
- e ☐ By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2).
- f ☐ If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III supporting organization, check this box.
- g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?
- (i) A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization? ☐
- (ii) A family member of a person described in (i) above? ☐
- (iii) A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above? ☐

	Yes	No
11g(i)		
11g(ii)		
11g(iii)		

h Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1–9 above or IRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col. (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col. (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col. (i) organized in the U.S.?		(vii) Amount of monetary support
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
(A)									
(B)									
(C)									
(D)									
(E)									
Total									0

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

HTA

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	679,229	486,919	731,788	996,586	428,272	3,322,794
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						0
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						0
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	679,229	486,919	731,788	996,586	428,272	3,322,794
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						3,322,794
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	679,229	486,919	731,788	996,586	428,272	3,322,794
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	12,057	22,359	12,384	4,093	22,592	73,485
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)			753	1,526	2,600	4,879
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10					12	3,401,158
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)						
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						☐

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2012 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	97.70%
15 Public support percentage from 2011 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	98.00%
16a 33 1/3% support test—2012. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	☒	
b 33 1/3% support test—2011. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	☐	
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2012. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	☐	
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2011. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	☐	
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions	☐	

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II.
If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						0
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						0
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						0
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						0
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						0
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5	0	0	0	0	0	0
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						0
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						0
c Add lines 7a and 7b	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						0

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6	0	0	0	0	0	0
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						0
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						0
c Add lines 10a and 10b	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						0
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						☐

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2012 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	0.00%
16 Public support percentage from 2011 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	0.00%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2012 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	0.00%
18 Investment income percentage from 2011 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	0.00%

- 19a **33 1/3% support tests—2012.** If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐
- b **33 1/3% support tests—2011.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐
- 20 **Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ☐

Part IV

Supplemental Information. Complete this part to provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; and Part III, line 12. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions).

**SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

- ▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.
▶ Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

The Sierra Fund

Employer identification number

68-0485725

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year	6	
2 Aggregate contributions to (during year)	41,595	
3 Aggregate grants from (during year)	42,800	
4 Aggregate value at end of year	302,445	

5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? ☒ Yes ☐ No

6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).

☐ Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education)	☐ Preservation of an historically important land area
☐ Protection of natural habitat	☐ Preservation of a certified historic structure
☐ Preservation of open space	

2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.

	Held at the End of the Tax Year
a Total number of conservation easements	2a
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2c
d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2d

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ \$

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.

b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items:

(i) Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items:

a Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):

a ☐ Public exhibition

d ☐ Loan or exchange programs

b ☐ Scholarly research

e ☐ Other

c ☐ Preservation for future generations

4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.

5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:

	Amount
c Beginning balance	1c
d Additions during the year	1d
e Distributions during the year	1e
f Ending balance	1f 0

2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21? ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII ☐

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance	0	0	0	0	0

2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:

a Board designated or quasi-endowment %

b Permanent endowment %

c Temporarily restricted endowment %

The percentages in lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:

(i) unrelated organizations

(ii) related organizations

b If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

	Yes	No
3a(i)		
3a(ii)		
3b		

4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land	0	0		0
b Buildings	0	0	0	0
c Leasehold improvements	0	0	0	0
d Equipment	0	0	0	0
e Other	0	0	0	0

Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).) 0

Part VII Investments—Other Securities. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives	0	
(2) Closely-held equity interests	0	
(3) Other		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
(I)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.) ▶	0	

Part VIII Investments—Program Related. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment type	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
(10)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 13.) ▶	0	

Part IX Other Assets. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
(10)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 15.) ▶	0

Part X Other Liabilities. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	0
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
(10)	
(11)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 25.) ▶	0

2. FIN 48 (ASC 740) Footnote. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740). Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII. ☐

Part XIII Supplemental Information (continued)

Area for supplemental information with horizontal dashed lines.

SCHEDULE I
(Form 990)

**Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations,
Governments, and Individuals in the United States**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Name of the organization

The Sierra Fund

Employer identification number

68-0485725

OMB No. 1545-0047

2012

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

- 1** Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- 2** Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States.

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Governments and Organizations in the United States. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1 (a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
(1) Green Corps, 44 Winter Street	23-2687791		6,000		Book		General Support
(2) The Land Trust of Santa Cruz, 617 Water Street	94-2431856		5,000		Book		General Support
(3)							
(4)							
(5)							
(6)							
(7)							
(8)							
(9)							
(10)							
(11)							
(12)							

- 2** Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table 2
- 3** Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table 2

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

(HTA)

Part III **Grants and Other Assistance to Individuals in the United States.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 22.

Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

	(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Number of recipients	(c) Amount of cash grant	(d) Amount of non-cash assistance	(e) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f) Description of non-cash assistance
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Complete this part to provide the information required in Part I, line 2, Part III, column (b), and any other additional information.

Supplemental information area with horizontal lines for text entry.

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

OMB No. 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public
Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Name of the organization

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.
▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Employer identification number

The Sierra Fund

68-0485725

Form 990, Part III, Line 4d: Program Service Expenses: 58,041, Grants and allocations: 0.

Revenue: 16,601 Designated Funds- two designated fund projects are currently in process. The

Humbug SNC project & the Deer Creek Tribute Trail Fundraiser.

Form 990 Part VI Section B Line Q 11a Our 990 toz return is prepared by an outside tax

service. It is reviewed by the CEO, sent to the Board of Directors for review & comment, then

submitted to the IRS.

Form 990 Part VI Section B Line Q12c The conflict of interest policy is included in TSF's

Bylaws, section 8. The Bylaws are reviewed annually at a board meeting to ensure all board

members are in compliance.

Form 990 Part VI Section B Line Q15a Compensation for the CEO is determined by the Board of

Directors and reviewed annually during a performance review.

Form 990 Part VI Section C Line Q19 The Sierra Fund will make the governing documents,

conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public on our website:

www.sierrafund.org Information is also available on Guidestar: www.guidestar.org

Form 990 Part IX Line 11g \$64,982 was for consulting services, \$13,042 was for testing/labwork

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

The Sierra Fund

68-0485725

Area with horizontal dashed lines for supplemental information.

Part VIII, Lines 1a-h (990) - Contributions, Gifts, Grants, and Other Amounts

		Cash	Noncash
1 Federated Campaigns	1		
2 Membership dues	2		
3 Fundraising events	3	12,400	
4 Related organizations	4		
5 Government grants (contributions)	5		
6 All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above:		415,872	
Other contributions total	6	415,872	0
7 Total	7	428,272	0

Part X, Line 4 (990) - Accounts Receivable

		Accounts receivable		Allowance for doubtful accounts	
		Beginning	End	Beginning	End
1 A/R	1	52,260	70,432		
2	2				
3	3				
4	4				
5	5				
6	6				
7	7				
8	8				
9	9				
10	10				
11 Total accounts receivable	11	52,260	70,432	0	0

Part X, Line 15 (990) - Other Assets

		Total:	0	1,740
		Description	Beginning	End
1	Deposits			1,740