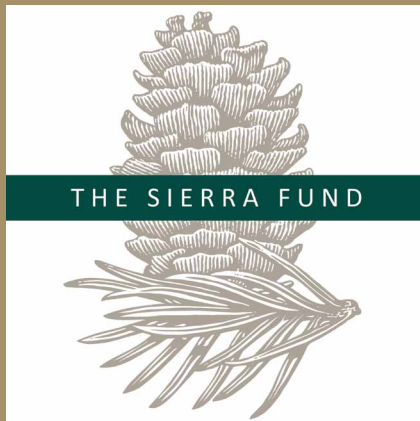




The Sierra Fund 2107 Annual Report

“We are of the Sierra and for the Sierra”



Restoring
Ecosystem and
Community
Resiliency in the
Sierra Nevada
region

Greetings from The Sierra Fund

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2017 was another banner year for The Sierra Fund (TSF). We created and released our new Strategic Plan, held our fourth major conference, launched three new scientific projects, and successfully advocated for the investment of millions of dollars to support innovative projects that demonstrate new ways to restore ecosystem and community resiliency for the Sierra Nevada. And, I got to take a 3 month sabbatical while the hard-working staff carried on without a hitch!

We are proud to release this brief summary of our accomplishments over 2017, as well as recognize the contributions from our leaders and donors who make this work possible. After 16 years of hard work, The Sierra Fund has begun to make a lasting difference for the people and the land of the region.

We are committed to restoring the Sierra Nevada; enabling the forests, rivers and meadows to recover from the abuses that began with the Gold Rush, which launched 150 years of irresponsible mining, logging, over-grazing, and development. We imagine a resilient range of light with healthy places to live, work and raise a family where all people have access to clean water, are safe from exposure to legacy toxics, and are protected against catastrophic wildfires.

Join us to create this future together in the headwaters of the State, our beautiful Sierra Nevada, to the benefit of all California.

For the Sierra!

Elizabeth J. Martin

Elizabeth "Izzy" Martin
CEO

← P.S. Photos from my trip!



"Resiliency is the ability to respond to change and recover. Over the last year, we have successfully revitalized our mission and focused our programs toward restoring Ecosystem and Community Resiliency in the Sierra Nevada."
Carrie Monohan, Ph.D., Science Director.

Financial Statement

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

January 1 - December 31, 2017

REVENUE

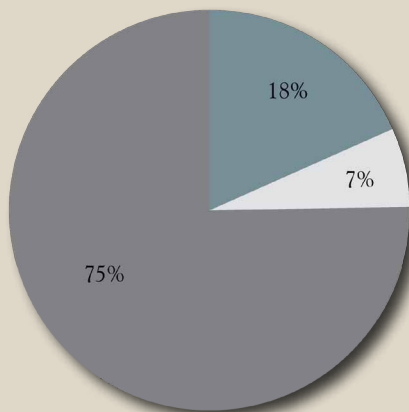
Donations & Contributions	\$	91,887
Grants - Government	\$	407,553
Grants - Foundations	\$	639,881
Fee for Service & Event Income	\$	96,128
Investment Income	\$	27,493
*Program pass-thru to CABY projects	\$	1,962,189
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	3,225,131

EXPENSES

Programs (see chart below)	\$	1,064,565
*Program pass-thru to CABY projects	\$	1,962,189
Management & General	\$	41,861
Fundraising	\$	38,781
Grants Made	\$	63,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	3,170,896

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **\$** **54,235**

PROGRAM EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



	Ecosystem Resiliency - \$555,623
	Community Resiliency - \$195,635
	*Capacity Building - \$2,275,496

*Funding for Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) Projects through CA Prop 84 - for partners including City of Camptonville, SYRCL, PCWA, American Rivers, NID, and City of Placerville. The \$1,962,189 is included in the Program Expenses as part of TSF's Capacity Building Program.

Thank you Donors!

We would like to acknowledge all of the individuals and businesses that have supported us over this last year. We could not have done it without you!

Erin and James Alonso
 John Anderson
 Anonymous Donors
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 Randy and Karen Barrow
 Sherry Bartolucci
 Joseph Bell
 Lucy Blake and Steve Nightingale
 BriarPatch Food Co-op
 Patty and John Brissenden
 Charles and Mary Brock
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 Martha Davis
 Deer Creek Broadcasting
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 Roger Funston
 Alice and Renee Gidel
 Samuel Gitchel and Nancy Bleile
 Granite Bay Flycasters
 Grocery Outlet
 Alison Harvey and Dave Loera
 Ralph and Dorothy Hitchcock
 Rick Humphreys and Elizabeth Haven
 Luke and Heather Hunt

Restoring Ecosystem Resiliency

Thank you Donors!

*Indigenous Environmental Network/
Western Mining Action Network*

Norma and Samuel Johnson

Lina Johnson

Robert Johnston

Robert and Edie Kirkwood

BJ Kirwan Hanna

Ruth Marrion

Stephen McCord

Jerry and Barbara Meral

Brenda Milum

Stephanie Mooers

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Judy Parks and Bob Blackburn

Sarah Pender

Barbara Price

Reflective Jewelry

Patricia Schifferle

*Timothy Seward and Stephanie
Hague*

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Don and Madeleine Simborg

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Sorensen's Resort

SPD Markets

Mitchell Stewart

Summer Thymes Bakery & Deli

Mary Toscani

*Unitarian Universalist Community
of the Mountains*

Patrick Volitis

Nancy and John Wagner

Pete and Sue Williams

Sarah Windsor

Brett Wright

Forests

In 2017, TSF secured funding for a planning project that will integrate forest fuels reduction activities with hydraulic mine remediation in Tahoe National Forest (TNF). As part of project development, TSF's Science Director advised two CSU, Chico graduate students to identify and assess hydraulic mines and their features, including debris control dams, using LiDAR analysis in the Yuba River watershed forests. The team developed an assessment protocol for site visits, created a framework for site database nomenclature and determined a method for prioritizing sites. This effort led to the selection of two priority sites included in the planning project, and development of an inventory that will be used to select future projects.

Photo by Janet Peters



Rivers

TSF continues to monitor the rule-making processes and lead campaigns to increase awareness of and participation in public hearings to voice support for protection of California's headwaters.

In 2017, TSF staff gave comments at public workshops and submitted extensive written comments to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on the destructive practice of suction dredge mining. Our input is helping to inform the implementation of Senate Bill 637, which requires miners to obtain water quality permits from the SWRCB.

“In 2017, we broadened our work, establishing new pilot projects and spearheading policy reform to address the impacts of the Gold Rush on forests, rivers, fish, and meadows.” - Alex Keeble-Toll, Program Manager



Photo by Mitch Stewart

Fish

In 2017, TSF collected temperature data on the Yuba River to evaluate fish passage opportunities, and used these data to inform extensive comments we submitted to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on their draft feasibility report for the Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Study. TSF's scientific analysis shows that suitable fish habitat exists above Englebright dam, and engineering analysis demonstrates that it is possible to remove sediment and modify the dam, in order to provide a pathway for this endangered species. The Yuba River has been identified as the best opportunity for recovery of the endangered Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, yet the USACE-owned Englebright Dam, an antiquated 280-foot high impoundment built in 1940 to hold back hydraulic mining debris, blocks fish passage.

Meadows

In 2017, TSF launched a collaborative meadow restoration project in Plumas County with a multidisciplinary project team that includes the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the landowner, UC Davis, CSU, Chico, Plumas Corporation, Point Blue, the Maidu Summit Consortium, and several private consultants and volunteers. We designed a baseline monitoring and post-restoration evaluation plan for the 3,000-acre site and led two summer field camps to install equipment that monitors shallow subsurface and surface water. We also collected data on existing vegetation, took water quality samples, and surveyed over 25 stream segments. This effort will allow us to quantify the benefits of meadow restoration to water quality, water storage, and other ecosystem services.



Thank you Donors!

We would like to acknowledge all of the Foundations that have supported us over this last year:

A.K. and C.M. Jennings Foundation
Applewood Fund at Community Foundation Santa Cruz County
Bella Vista Foundation
Firedoll Foundation
Patagonia
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
The California Wellness Foundation
The Campbell Foundation
The James Irvine Foundation
True North Foundation

Thank you Donors!

We would like to acknowledge all of the Foundations that have supported the Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership, for which The Sierra Fund proudly serves as fiscal sponsor:

Anonymous
Conservation Lands Foundation
Patagonia

Fostering Community Resiliency

Thank you Donors!

We would like to acknowledge all of the individuals who have supported the Sarah Forslund Fund for Environmental Leadership, a Donor-Advised Fund of The Sierra Fund:

Betsy and Robert Andersen
Eric Antebi and Marla Kolman-Antebi
Ron and Vava Bailey
Robert Beazley and Kristen Struebing-Beazley
Charles and Mary Brock
William Callender
Julia and R. Carter Clements
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Barbara Forslund and Phil Klingner
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John and Tamra Hege
Anne and Lawrence Heilman
William and Karen Hoefs
Julie Jurs and Raymond Garcia
Daniel Kelliher
Deborah and Bill Kruzal
Joshua and Hedy Marks
Judith and Benjamin Marks
Amy and Jason Markus
Jennifer Melville and Alexander Abbott
Jerry and Barbara Meral

Central to TSF's vision of resiliency is meeting the needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs) by reducing exposure to contaminants and increasing participation in decision-making about water.

Mercury

Fish consumption is the primary exposure pathway to mercury for people and wildlife. Over the last year, TSF led a multi-faceted effort to reduce exposure to mercury in fish. Working with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to get site-specific fish consumption advisories translated, we were able to post nine water bodies in five watersheds with advisories in both Spanish and English at our annual Post It Day event.

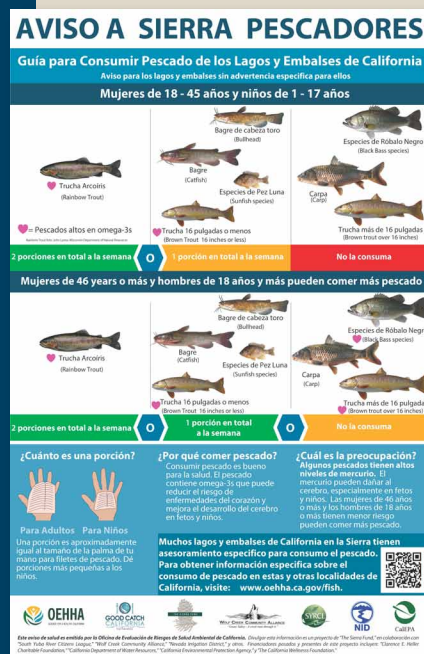
To expand our bilingual effort, we collaborated with the California Department of Public Health and Deer Creek Broadcasting to develop and broadcast a Spanish-language public service announcement about local fish consumption. In addition, we continue to collect fish tissue data for site-specific fish

consumption advisories and to survey anglers in an effort to understand exposure risk. Our goal is for community members that catch and eat fish, to be able to make healthy and informed choices.

Water Quality and Water Access

TSF has been involved in the Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) Group and the larger Mountain Counties Funding Area coalition to ensuring that the water quality and water access needs of DACs are at the forefront of water planning and policy in the Sierra.

In 2017, TSF advocated that the Department of Water Resources-required DAC needs-assessment include tribal engagement. We are building the foundation for a bilingual environmental justice program and we are spearheading efforts to encourage DAC participation in decision-making processes about water.



Building Regional Capacity

2017 was a banner year for our efforts to increase the visibility of the Sierra Nevada and secure significant intellectual and financial resources to protect and restore headwater resiliency.

Lasting Gold Rush Impacts

TSF continues to be at the forefront of demonstrating that the impacts of the 19th century Gold Rush are at the heart of California's most pressing environmental issues.

In 2017, we held our fourth biennial Reclaiming the Sierra conference where over 200 experts gathered for technical presentations on restoring blighted forests and meadows, remediating mines, and using regional models to increase effectiveness. Panelists discussed water infrastructure, mining regulations, contaminated reservoir discharge, and "ethical gold."

Leveraging the conference outcomes, we launched the Headwater Mercury Source Reduction Technical Advisory Committee (HMSR-TAC) to provide a vehicle for development of a regional strategy to address mercury contamination. This group meets quarterly to focus on hydraulic mines, reservoirs, forests, and mercury exposure.

Intellectual and Financial Investment

Two projects that we have championed for many years received substantial funding in California's 2017/18 state budget, ensuring that resources are available to address contamination from mine sites into our waterways. Over \$8 million was allocated to implement remediation activities at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, one of the largest hydraulic mine sites in the Sierra. In addition, Nevada Irrigation District's project at Combie Reservoir on the Bear River received \$6 million to remove and treat mercury contaminated sediment. Expected outcomes are increased water quality, quantity and storage capacity.



Thank you Donors!

*James Mooers
Stephanie Mooers
Aaron Myran
Laura Olsen and Mari Omland
Robert and Anne Perschel
Judith Purpora
Emily and Dave Rivenes
Patricia Ronald
Adam Ruben
Philip and Barbara Sarkisian
John and Valerie Stillman
Stephen and Caroline Struebing
Richard Taylor and Tracy Grubbs
Wendy Wendlandt
Cameron and Frances Wolfe*

Thank you Donors!

We would like to acknowledge all of the individuals who have supported The Bear Creek Watershed Group, for which The Sierra Fund proudly serves as fiscal sponsor:

*Anonymous Donors
Marcia Kalfas
Carl and Mary Weidert*



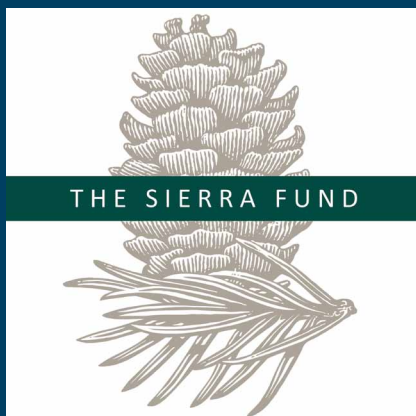
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