



2022

ANNUAL REPORT



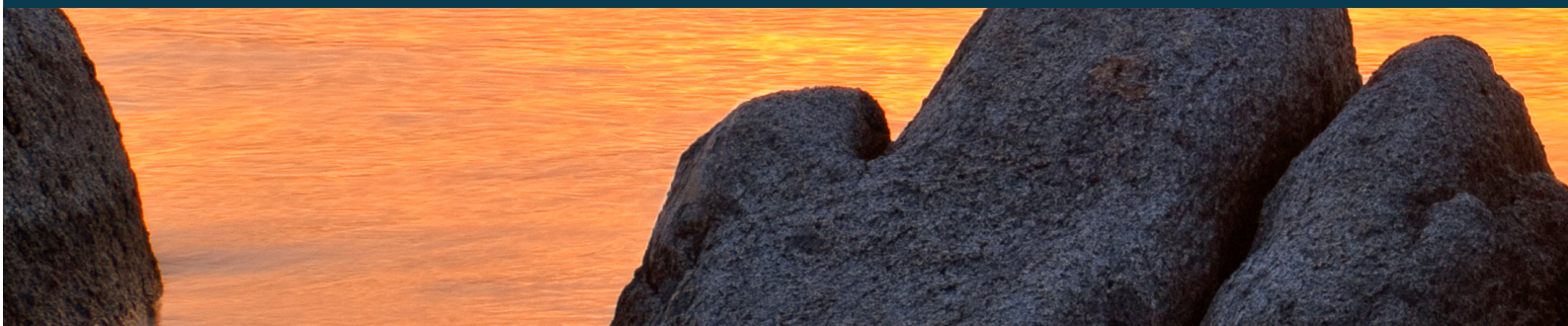
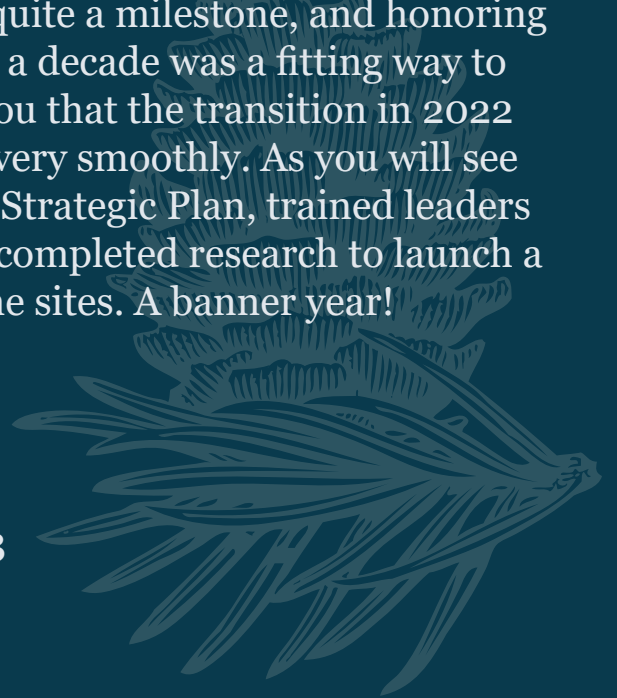
California Quail

A note from our

The Sierra Fund in 2022 went through a major year of planning, celebration, and accomplishment. I was honored to help organize the 20th Anniversary Reception in partnership with our staff and fellow board members. Hitting our 20th anniversary was quite a milestone, and honoring Izzy Martin who led The Sierra Fund for over a decade was a fitting way to celebrate. I'm equally pleased to share with you that the transition in 2022 to a new Director, Joan Clayburgh, has gone very smoothly. As you will see in this report - we completed a new five year Strategic Plan, trained leaders in restoration monitoring and practices, and completed research to launch a pilot project for remediation of hydraulic mine sites. A banner year!

Robert

**Robert Meacher |
Board Member '22 and Board Chair '23
The Sierra Fund**





The Sierra Fund's mission is to **protect** and **restore** the resiliency of the **ecosystems** and **communities** of the Sierra Nevada in the face of the uncertainties brought on by climate change.

Read on for a year of impact...

2022 Accomplishments

Celebrated our 20th Anniversary

The Sierra Fund celebrated our impressive track record! In the last 20 years, the organization attracted over \$100 million in public and private investments to conservation work for the region; was a critical leader in helping establish the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, which has to date leveraged over \$120 million in state funding; won a moratorium on recreational suction dredge mining, a practice that pollutes our rivers and streams; and advanced policies and reforms that better protect our health and environment from past mining's toxic legacy. Our evening reception in Sacramento on April 6 appreciated all our donors, legislative partners, fellow conservation leaders, and supporters who made this possible. And we honored the retired CEO and leader extraordinaire, Elizabeth "Izzy" Martin, with a golden pinecone award.

Advocated for Increased State Investments in Forest Health Work

The increased severity of fire threatens our Sierra communities' safety, water supply, wildlife habitat, carbon stores, Native American sacred sites, recreation, and local economies. This year The Sierra Fund facilitated a new collaboration with Sierra Forest Legacy, Sierra Institute for Communities and the Environment, and American River Conservancy and hired an advocacy team in Sacramento to champion increasing state investment and advancing smarter policies to improve forest health. Collectively our new partnership has over 100 years of experience in forest management, prescribed burning, forest restoration, hydraulic mine remediation, workforce development, and landscape-scale planning. We advocated in Sacramento for more holistic wildfire prevention efforts and employing community-scale approaches. In 2022, our collaborative advocated throughout the year for state funding to support a prescribed fire training center(s), landscape conservation, improved fire mapping, increased funds for a prescribed fire liability fund, and grants for community-scaled wood utilization and ecosystem management. We got some but not all we asked for, and it was a good first year for our collective advocacy!



Sharp-Shinned Hawk

Launched Project Addressing Wildfire & Mine Remediation

The Sierra Fund launched an innovative new approach to restore hydraulic mine sites, reduce fuel load to address wildfires, store carbon, and prevent mercury runoff. Currently, fuel load reduction projects avoid thousands of acres of hydraulic mine-impacted areas because of the additional work required to assess these historical sites. The Sierra Fund designed a site plan that integrates hydraulic mine remediation into fuel load reduction for wildfire protection and broke ground to establish a pilot project at the Grizzly Creek Diggins on Tahoe National Forest. Staff designed and conducted applied research using biochar – a “filter-like” charcoal product made from small-diameter trees. We installed test plots and conducted rainfall simulations, quantifying how effective biochar is at trapping and storing sediment, including particulate-bound mercury, that would otherwise flow off-site into streams, rivers, and lakes. The Sierra Fund’s research results support that the technique is effective!! This remediation restores soil health and captures carbon – and is cost-effective to do in tandem with the fuel load reduction work to reduce wildfire severity and risk.



Trained Leaders in Nature-Based Solutions for Restoration

The Sierra Fund organized two region-wide trainings for restoration practitioners. Healthy meadows are critical areas that retain water longer into the dry season and benefit many species. Meadows can even help slow fires, giving firefighters a better chance of protecting a community (as evidenced in 2021 near Markleeville). Finally, healthy meadows store substantial carbon - even more per acre than forests – important as we work to avoid catastrophic climate change. We organized the Sierra Meadows Wetland & Riparian Area Monitoring Plan Protocols field trainings in Yosemite and Clover Valley. We co-convened the first-of-its-kind process-based restoration training for over 50 conservationists, tribal members, and graduate students. Process-based restoration re-establishes natural processes that sustain ecosystems using natural materials, avoiding heavy equipment, and taking a low-cost approach. One fun element has been training others on how to install beaver dam analogs (man-made beaver dams) to rewet meadows and restore healthy meadow function.



2022 Accomplishments

Helped Advance Tribal Priority Conservation Projects

The Sierra Fund partnered with Tribes to support advancing some of their priority conservation projects on their ancestral homelands. In prior years we had a series of listening sessions, and this year we focused on advancing projects Tribal partners identified. We wrote grants and secured half a million in funding for the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project and the Colfax Todd's Valley Consolidated Tribe for water access improvements, fuels reduction, and native plant propagation. In 2022 we designed site plans and obtained permits for building a section of the Deer Creek Tribute Trail with our partner California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (Nisenan) – and hope to celebrate completion in late 2023.



Connected Cities & Counties to Resources for Abandoned Mine Clean-up



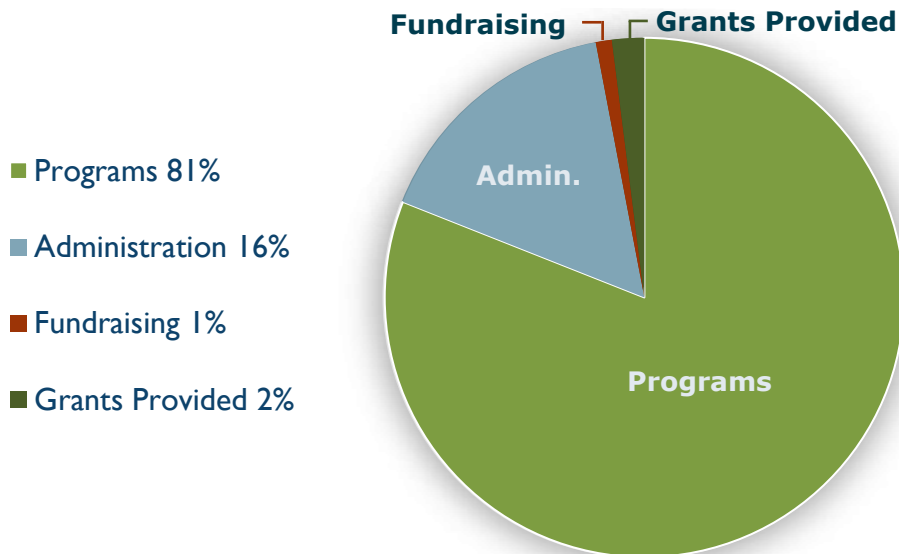
The Sierra Fund reached out to connect cities and counties to funding and other resources to clean up mine-impacted lands, to better protect our health and the environment. Abandoned mine brownfields are sites with potential chemical and physical hazards that could be reused or redeveloped if assessed and cleaned up. The Sierra Fund created a factsheet and webpages to share funding information and other brownfields resources. Staff called and emailed cities and counties in the Sierra to alert them to these resources. We helped organize a public meeting with partners in Nevada City and Grass Valley highlighting resources and support available from the U.S. EPA.

“TSF found us when my staff and I were at a crossroads in the remedial process and were concerned about continued funding. TSF provided us with encouragement and grant information. I found them passionate and experienced, especially when helping small communities. I greatly appreciated their mental and technical support.”

***Yvonne Kimball
City of Jackson***

2022 Financial Statement

2022 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



REVENUE	
Individual & Business Donations	\$78,654
Government Grants	\$344,300
Private Foundation Grants	\$275,000
Fee for Service	\$54,048
Event Income	\$27,909
Total Revenue	\$779,911

EXPENSES	
Programs	\$(765,199)
Administration	\$(145,597)
Fundraising	\$(9,531)
Grants Provided	\$(8,000)*
Total Expenses	\$(928,327)

Sarah Forslund Fund	
Donor Advised Fund Contributions (Income)	\$8,390
Investment (Income)	\$2,348
Grants Provided (Expense)	\$(12,000)
Net Donor Advised Fund	\$(1,262)**

TOTAL NET INCOME	\$(149,678)***
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THANK YOU
to our donors
and funders for
your generous
support of our
work to increase
ecosystem and
community
resiliency in the
Sierra Nevada.

* TSF received \$8,000 in funds from a private foundation for re-granting to another nonprofit.

** The Value of the Sarah Forslund Fund was \$285,750 as of December 31, 2022.

*** \$124,369 in revenue was received and reported in prior fiscal year 2021 and used to cover planned expenses in 2022 fiscal year. \$25,309 in unrestricted revenue was received in the first half of 2023 and used to cover expenses incurred in the 2022 fiscal year to balance.



2022 Board of Directors: Adrienne Alvord (Chair), Martha Davis*, Rich Gordon (Vice Chair)**, Alison Harvey (Secretary/Treasurer), Martha Lennihan**, Robert Meacher, Tim Seward, and Brian Wallace*.

2022 Staff: Laura Carroll (Development and Communications Manager), Joan Clayburgh (Executive Director), Jessica Dyke (Program Associate)*, Nick Graham (Senior Environmental Scientist), Alex Keeble Toll (Administrative Director)**, Jenny Michael (Office Administrator), Carrie Monohan (Program Director), and Greg Thrush (Community Organizer)**.

* Employment or board service began during year

** Employment or board service ended during year

Photos courtesy of JDelsoPhotography, Alex Keeble-Toll, and Carrie Monohan

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