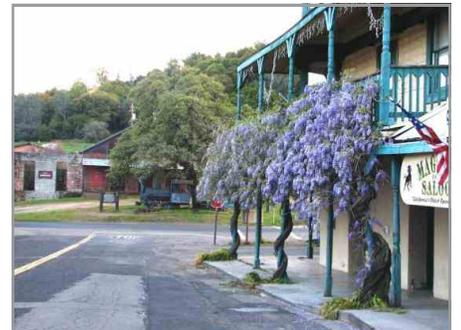




Sierra Nevada Conservancy Annual Report 2010-11



SIERRA NEVADA
CONSERVANCY



Sierra Nevada Conservancy Subregions



State of California
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Natural Resources Agency
John Laird, Secretary

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
B.J. Kirwan, Chair
Jim Branham, Executive Officer
Joan Keegan, Assistant Executive Officer

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Subregions

The SNC Region is formed by all or part of 22 counties, more than 25 million acres, and organized into six Subregions.

North Sierra: Modoc, Shasta, Lassen Counties

North Central Sierra: Tehama, Butte, Plumas, Sierra Counties

Central Sierra: Yuba, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado Counties

South Central Sierra: Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa Counties

South Sierra: Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern Counties

East Sierra: Alpine, Mono, Inyo Counties

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	5
Message from Board Chair	7
Grant Program	8
Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI).....	9
Geotourism	10
Great Sierra River Cleanup	11
Sierra Day in the Capitol	12
Sierra Nevada Water Report and Water Facts Booklet.....	13
California Water Policy	14
Mokelumne Watershed Environmental Benefits Project	15
Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council.....	16
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Strategic Plan.....	17
System Indicators	18
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Operations.....	18
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Budget.....	19
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board Members.....	21
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Staff	22
Appendices	
Appendix A Authorized Grants.....	24
Appendix B Completed Grants	25

Mission

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California.



Executive Summary

Perhaps what is most remarkable about the past year is the amount of important work taking place throughout our Region. Times are tough and financial resources are scarce to be sure, but it seems folks are working even harder to find local solutions to complex problems. This annual report gives you a glimpse of many of the activities of Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) staff and our partners in moving this good work forward.

As our Proposition 84 funding winds down over the next couple of years, adding value in other ways will become even more the SNC's focus. The statute creating the SNC authorized a wide range of activities for us to use in carrying out our mission. As you will note in reading this report, there is no shortage of opportunity to do so.

In order to help guide these efforts during somewhat of a transition, we developed the foundation in this 2010-11 fiscal year for a new SNC Strategic Plan, the second in our organization's nearly seven-year history. The Plan identifies five key areas of focus for the SNC, and includes objectives that describe how the organization can best achieve success in these areas.

The Plan reinforces the role of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy as an advocate, leading efforts to address Regional issues, as well as our efforts to fund projects and seek funding from other sources for activities in the Region. It also identifies the need to provide technical assistance and opportunities for greater collaboration at the community level.

We look forward to beginning the implementation of this Plan, and being a part of efforts throughout the Region that are improving the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada. As always, my sincere appreciation to our Governing Board, staff and partners for their dedication and commitment to these ideals. I hope you'll find the information contained in this report interesting and encouraging.

Jim Branham, Executive Officer



- *Planning the next three years: Strategic Plan*
- *Leading efforts to address Regional issues.*
- *Funding projects to support our Region.*

Profile of the Sierra Nevada

- Covers 25 million acres: 25 percent of California.
- Provides California with up to 2/3 of its water.



- Hosts more than 50 million visitors per year.
- Includes the highest peak in the contiguous U.S. - Mt. Whitney at 14,496 feet elevation.

- Home to 60 percent of California's animal species.
- Home to almost half of California's plant species.



- The only place you will find the world's biggest living thing: the Giant Sequoia.
- Removes more carbon from the air per forest acre than the Amazon forest.
- Supplies up to 50 percent of California's annual timber yield.

Message from the Board Chair

Last year has proven to be another challenging but productive year for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). In addition to awarding another \$10 million in Proposition 84 grants for a variety of high benefit projects, bringing the total awarded to nearly \$40 million, the SNC has continued to play a key role in a number of Regional and local activities.

SNC staff has been active in assisting and supporting a wide variety of local groups who are coming together throughout the Region to address issues of forest health, fire risk and community economic issues in a collaborative spirit. Focusing on areas of agreement, rather than areas of disagreement, has allowed progress to be made on a number of fronts, some of which are discussed in more detail in this report. Our efforts have also contributed to significant progress on the Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project, providing people around the world with information to help plan for an authentic Sierra Nevada experience -- and helping to boost the Region's tourism economy through new opportunities to explore our Region.

Focusing on areas of agreement, rather than areas of disagreement, has allowed progress to be made on a number of fronts.

We've also continued to coordinate important Regional activities such as the Great Sierra River Cleanup and Sierra Day in the Capitol, events that remind all Californians of the Region's importance and demonstrate our commitment to being good stewards. This year we also successfully developed a new Strategic Plan to guide our organization over the coming few years. It seemed as if we had just approved the original Plan, but in fact a great deal was accomplished during the life of that first five-year Plan, and the lessons learned assisted us greatly in crafting the new Plan.

As always, I greatly appreciate the dedication and hard work of the SNC staff and the remarkable commitment of our many partners throughout the Region. In a time when we hear plenty about what's not working in government, I am honored to chair the Governing Board of an organization that is accomplishing so many positive things, making the Sierra Nevada an even better place to live, work and visit.

B.J. Kirwan



Grant Program

In March 2011 the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board authorized grants for 29 watershed health-related projects across the Sierra totaling \$10 million (see list of projects and award amounts in Appendix A). The funds came from the voter-approved *Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)*. Once complete, these projects will: protect or enhance water quality, wet meadow/riparian function and overall habitat condition; reduce risk of large, damaging wildfire; and sustain local communities that depend on these areas for agriculture, forestry, recreation and other activities.

The SNC also worked with stakeholders and the Board to develop a process for awarding the remaining \$10 million in Proposition 84 funds over the next two years. As a result of public input and Board direction, projects eligible for the remaining funds are limited to conservation easement acquisition, restoration, or site improvement in two key areas of focus: Healthy Forests and Ranching/Agricultural Lands. These areas align with the SNC's newly updated Strategic Plan. In response to stakeholder input the SNC also instituted a mandatory pre-application process as a tool for earlier vetting of project ideas.

The SNC has authorized funding for more than 220 projects since the [grant program](#) began in 2007. So far 50 projects, or 23 percent of the total awarded, have been completed. Of those, 26 were completed in 2010-11 (see Appendix B for list and individual project accomplishments). Together these projects helped to directly protect or restore 40 miles of river and almost 12,000 acres of forest, woodland, grassland, meadow and riparian area, as well as leveraging protection of another 10,856 acres in the Region. Project proponents also surveyed 215,000 acres for invasive species, provided more than 4,400 household consultations on defensible space and fire safety, and trained upwards of 1,700 students and volunteers in ecology, fire and watershed restoration techniques.



Sierra Nevada Trails Project



Rose Creek Restoration at Pit River



Fannon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement

Sierra Nevada Forest & Community Initiative (SNFCI)

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) launched the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI) during 2010-11 for the purpose of fostering local and Regional collaboration to support a cohesive, economically viable, and sustainable approach to reducing fire risk, creating local jobs, and protecting our valuable forest and watershed resources. The Sierra Nevada has seen steady decline in wood processing infrastructure in recent decades. Maintaining the existing infrastructure (mostly in the form of lumber mills and biomass energy plants) is a critical part of the SNFCI effort. In addition, it is essential to identify and support additional infrastructure in the Region so sustainable forest management can occur and that communities benefit from this work.

In this regard SNC staff works closely with diverse participants of community-based forest collaboratives to help develop solutions focusing on the triple bottom line, which balances environment, economy, and social issues. Efforts are aimed at taking the actions to see necessary restoration work performed, benefiting the environment and local communities. During 2010-11, the SNC was directly involved with seven such groups, addressing issues across a significant portion of the organization's service area.

One approach involves multi-agency partnerships focused on demonstration projects that develop projects in a collaborative fashion, reducing conflict and resulting in on-the-ground actions.

An important aspect of some of the demonstration projects is using the abundant small trees and brush, which currently serve as a fire threat, as an opportunity to diversify and grow the rural economies. The SNC is targeting rural forested communities to put residents back to work thinning and removing fuels from the forest. Once the woody materials are removed they can be manufactured into valuable products (e.g., pellets for stoves and fencing) or used as clean energy sources such as biomass to energy and biofuels to power industry and vehicles. These valuable uses will replace the current practice of piling and burning the woody materials, causing air pollution, release of carbon and impact to water quality. Residents of these communities are the stewards of the forests and watersheds, and by providing them employment opportunities and a route to improved conditions, they can better steward these valuable resources.

The SNFCI Regional Coordinating Council was formed to work on regional and statewide issues that can influence the success of community-based forest collaborative efforts. Members include representatives from the wood products industry, local government, environmental and conservation organizations, community groups and water interests. The leadership and work of the SNFCI Regional Coordinating Council will help reduce barriers to the implementation of local, on-the-ground projects and support the U.S. Forest Service with implementation of forest plans and ecological restoration projects.



Residents of these communities are the stewards of the forests and watersheds, and by providing employment opportunities and a route to improved conditions, they can better steward these valuable resources.

Geotourism

Recognizing that tourism remains one of the Sierra Nevada's strongest sustainable economic contributors, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has entered into a partnership with the Sierra Business Council (SBC) and the National Geographic Society to develop the [Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide Project](#), viewable at www.sierranevadageotourism.org.

Since 2009 the MapGuide Project has engaged thousands of local residents throughout the Region to describe and share the special assets of the Sierra Nevada that make it attractive to a rapidly growing market of prospective visitors who desire authentic, sustainable tourism experiences. The site now features more than 1,200 unique destinations and experiences in the Region ranging from natural wonders to local cuisine to community festivals. The site is currently viewed by more than 13,000 people in 89 countries each month.

National Geographic is currently developing a companion print map for broad distribution within the state, highlighting several of the local assets. At the same time, two smart-phone applications are also being released to allow cell phone users real-time access to the MapGuide while traveling. Implementation of an aggressive marketing plan involving multimedia advertising, trade show attendance, and social networking is expected to dramatically increase traffic to the website and ultimately to the Region. The project directly supports the SNC's programmatic mandates and is broadly supported throughout the Region.

The Sierra Nevada Geotourism graphic will be used on all marketing and outreach materials. The graphic will identify nominated Geotourism sites throughout the Region.



This Quick Response Code will be scanned by "smart phone" users directing them to the Sierra Nevada Geotourism website.



Great Sierra River Cleanup

In September of 2010, 36 organizations held cleanups at over 140 different sites as part of the Second Annual Great Sierra River Cleanup – a volunteer event aimed at removing trash from watersheds throughout the entire Sierra Nevada Region. These groups recruited over 4,000 volunteers and hauled in more than 140 tons of trash from rivers throughout the Region. Cleanups were held in almost every county in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) service area and covered 22 of the Region's major rivers.

The Great Sierra River Cleanup helped to establish new cleanups and also helped to connect numerous existing cleanups in watersheds all over the Region. The event also helped to connect a number of area legislators with the great work being done in their district's watersheds. In 2010, Senator Dave Cogdill and Assembly members Connie Conway, Tom Berryhill, Jim Nielsen, Ted Gaines and Dan Logue pledged their support for the event by becoming honorary co-chairs and encouraging participation in their districts. Assemblyman Dan Logue joined a cleanup in his district to show his support for SNC and to thank his local volunteers and cleanup coordinators for their commitment to good stewardship of the watershed.

The event was held in partnership with the Coastal Commission's Coastal Cleanup Day and served to encourage good stewardship on rivers from the source to the sea.

2010 Events Statistics

- 4,034 volunteers
- 141 tons of trash, appliances, car parts and other debris
- Most unique item: a ski pole

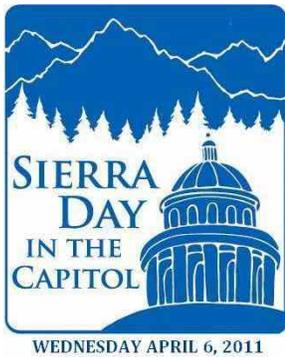


"It was a huge success and we are thrilled at the turnout and the enthusiasm for this event," said Jim Branham, SNC Executive Officer.

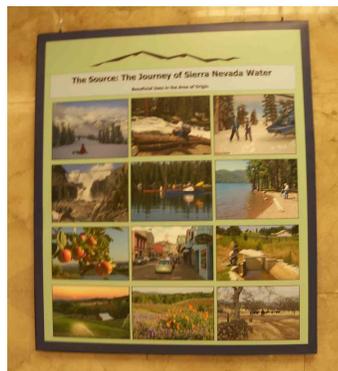


Sierra Day in the Capitol

The Eighth Annual Sierra Day in the Capitol was held on April 6, 2011. Sierra Day in the Capitol is a day dedicated to raising awareness among State Legislators and their staff about the importance of the Sierra Nevada. Sierra Nevada Conservancy staff worked closely with many organizations to form the theme and supporting materials for the event, titled *Looking to the Source: Watersheds of the Sierra Nevada*. This year 47 individuals from 23 diverse organizations participated in the event, delivering the message about the journey of Sierra Nevada water to more than 65 legislators and their staff. Sponsorship for the day increased from 19 organizations last year to 25 this year and included the following organizations:



Bear-Yuba Partnership	Pacific Forest Trust
California Cattlemen's Association	Placer Land Trust
California Council of Land Trusts	Planning and Conservation League
California Forestry Association	Regional Council of Rural Counties
California Land Management	Sierra Business Council
California Rangeland Trust	Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council
California Ski Industry Association	Sierra Foothill Conservancy
California Trout	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Nevada County Land Trust	Sierra Water Workgroup
Northern Sierra Partnership	Southern Sierra Partnership
O.A.R.S.	The Sierra Fund
	The Trust for Public Land



Sierra Nevada Water Report & Water Facts Booklet

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) provided partial funding to the Water Education Foundation for the preparation of a Sierra Nevada Water Report: *“Looking to the Source: Watersheds of the Sierra Nevada”* and the “Sierra Nevada Water Facts” booklet. The Water Education Foundation prepared both the report and the water facts booklet as a means to focus attention on the importance of the Sierra Nevada to the state’s environmental and economic well-being.

The Water Education Foundation maintained full editorial control of the report, receiving input from a wide range of stakeholders. Some of the key points from the report are highlighted below:

- The Sierra Nevada is the point of origin for a portion of the drinking water supply for more than 23 million Californians, as well as a significant number of Nevadans.
- Many of California’s urban areas are dependent upon the Sierra for their water; for example, 85 percent of San Francisco’s water originates in the Tuolumne River Watershed of the Sierra Nevada.
- The Sierra Nevada should be a prominent element in the Delta health discussion. Approximately half of the water that flows into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta originates in the Sierra.
- Restoring forest and watershed health, including reducing the risk and consequence of large, damaging fires, is a critical part of protecting our state’s water supply.
- Water from the Region directly supports jobs and job creation - in agriculture: farming, ranching, and dairy; in industry: energy, fuel, and construction; and in tourism and recreation.

In addition, the SNC sponsored two legislative brown bag lunch discussions convened by the Water Education Foundation focusing on the importance of Sierra Nevada water to Californians and the impacts of fire on watersheds. The sessions were held in the State Capitol and attended by State Legislative Staff.

“The Sierra Nevada as an important water source is dependent on the condition of its watersheds—the forests and meadows that drain into waterways.”

Looking to the Source: Watersheds of the Sierra Nevada

California Water Policy

By participating in the *California Water Plan*, public and private agencies engage in an opportunity to shape the issues, strategies and recommendation for the future of California's water.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) continued communicating with other state and federal agencies and key decision-makers outside the Region, encouraging increased investment in the Sierra to protect the many natural, economic and community benefits the Region provides to the rest of the state. One of the primary outreach vehicles was the SNC's participation on the State Agency Steering Committee for the *California Water Plan*, a report updated every five years by the Department of Water Resources to help water planners, legislators and other decision-makers chart California's water future. The SNC represented Sierra interests at bi-monthly steering committee meetings and quarterly public advisory meetings. In addition the SNC consulted with valley, urban, and other stakeholder groups, such as the Association of California Water Agencies, California Council of Land Trusts, Planning & Conservation League, California Farm Bureau, Regional Council of Rural Counties and others, about the unprecedented opportunity to shape the issues, strategies and recommendations addressed in the plan.

In a related effort, SNC served on the State Interagency Team for the *Delta Plan*, a legislatively mandated effort designed to provide a more reliable water supply for California while protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. Although the primary planning area is limited to the Delta, the plan considers certain actions in the upper watersheds as well. The SNC worked with Sierra water agencies and other stakeholders to facilitate better understanding of and Regional participation in this statewide effort.



Mokelumne Watershed Environmental Benefits Project

The Mokelumne River Watershed, similar to other Sierra Nevada watersheds, provides major environmental and economic benefits to the Region and the state. Located in Alpine, Amador and Calaveras Counties, it is the source of high quality municipal and agricultural water for a variety of users outside of the watershed.

The goal of this project is to provide private and public land managers in the watershed with resources and incentives to implement practices that ensure the long-term sustainability of these environmental benefits. The first phase of the project will address how upper watershed restoration treatments, primarily fuel hazard reduction and forest health management, can benefit downstream beneficiaries and reduce utility operational costs in the Mokelumne Watershed. This is part of a long-term effort to build an investment platform linking forest restoration and management to the beneficiaries of healthy watersheds. Consideration will be given as well to other restoration needs, such as road restoration and meadow and riparian restoration, that can positively impact water quality, quantity and help maintain a normal hydrologic cycle.

*Thinning the forest floor
reduces the chance of
a fire spreading.*



*New saplings remain to
create a healthy and
biologically diverse forest.*

Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council

*Permanent protection
of 140,000 acres of
PG&E watershed lands.*

The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) was formed to develop and administer a land conservation plan for the permanent protection of more than 140,000 acres of Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) watershed lands located in 22 counties within the Sierra Nevada. Watershed lands are expected to be transferred to local governments, federal land management agencies, Native American Tribes, or qualified nonprofit conservation organizations. In November 2010, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Stewardship Council to provide a limited set of services to ensure long-term preservation of public beneficial values on watershed lands subject to the Land Conservation Plan.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2010-11, the SNC and the Stewardship Council staff have worked to develop the funding mechanisms that would allow the SNC to be reimbursed for work in a number of roles, but primarily as the covenantee over lands donated to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Further discussion on the number of covenants and locations are subject to the approval of donations of lands to the USFS by the Stewardship Council. This process may continue for months or years. The SNC remains engaged with the Stewardship Council and will stay current on their process.



Strategic Plan

In 2010, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) began the first five-year update of its [Strategic Plan](#) with a focus on measurable and attainable actions and priorities for actions within the context of the SNC's broad mission and statutorily established program areas. The final plan was approved at our September 2011 Board meeting.

Starting in January 2012, this document will be implemented for the next three-years by applying specific actions identified in a series of annual work plans. The Strategic Plan creates opportunities for ongoing collaboration with multiple partners throughout the Sierra Nevada Region. Based on input received through public comment, as well as workshops, and meetings throughout the Region during the plan development, consistent themes emerged regarding desired roles for the SNC across all Areas of Focus:

Advocate for the Sierra Nevada

The SNC needs to continue its advocacy and education about Sierra issues.

Fund Projects

The SNC needs to use funding from bond measures and other sources to support high benefit projects that are consistent with the Areas of Focus identified in the Plan.

Bring additional funds into the Region

The SNC needs to work with federal, state and private programs to help them better direct funding to the Sierra.

Support local collaboration and capacity building

The SNC needs to work in parts of the Region that may not have the resources they need, to help them become more effective in addressing local issues.

Lead efforts to address issues at the Regional and local levels

The SNC needs to continue its work as a neutral convener in the Region, bringing a variety of interests together to find common ground.

Five Areas of Focus

- *Healthy Forests*
- *Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands*
- *Watershed Protection and Restoration*
- *Promotion of Sustainable Tourism and Recreation*
- *Long-term Effectiveness of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy*

System Indicators

System Indicator Reports

- 1. Demographics and economy;*
- 2. Water quality, air quality, and climate;*
- 3. Land conservation and habitat connectivity;*
- 4. Rangeland, including related habitat;*
- 5. Forest health, including fire and forest habitat.*

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) continued to work toward finalizing a set of System Indicators for the Sierra Nevada throughout 2010-11. These Indicators will be used by the SNC staff and Governing Board, and externally by SNC partners and other interested parties, to promote Regional understanding, make sound investments, guide strategic planning, and help us to gauge changes over time in the Region.

After initial development of the data and analysis for each Indicator, the SNC Board approved a revised set of Indicators at its March 2010 meeting. Based on feedback from stakeholders and staff discussions, these Indicators will be presented in a series of five reports that will provide a coherent and meaningful assessment of conditions in the SNC Region.

As reports are approved by the Board, information relative to each Indicator will be available on the SNC Web site and will be updated periodically as the underlying data is updated, providing an opportunity to observe trends over time.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Operations

California's stressful fiscal condition continued throughout the 2010-11 fiscal year. The Governor addressed the \$19 billion deficit, in part, by taking actions to reduce the State's payroll expenses through negotiated labor agreements. These actions affected the SNC and included a 12-month, 4.62 percent reduction in salaries in exchange for a one day per month personal leave program, a reduction in the state's pension contributions, a hiring freeze, and a 5 percent workforce cap. The Governor also mandated reductions in equipment and travel, and instituted a requirement to restrict spending to only the most mission-critical needs.

The SNC spent \$4.2 million of its \$4.6 million appropriation. Of the \$4.2 million spent, \$2.2 million was for salary and wages, and \$2.0 million was for operating expenditures. As noted elsewhere in this report, \$10 million in Proposition 84 grant funds were awarded during the year. Approximately \$10 million remains to be awarded, \$5 million of which will occur during SNC's FY 2011-12 grant cycle. The Budget Detail table on the next page provides a summary of these expenditures.

Budget Detail

Expenditures by funding source

State Operations	Budgeted	Actual
Environmental License Plate Fund	\$ 4,087,820	\$ 3,886,187
Proposition 84	<u>\$ 502,776</u>	<u>\$ 357,351</u>
State Operations, Totals	\$ 4,590,596	\$ 4,243,538
Local Assistance Grants	Budgeted *	Actual **
Proposition 84	<u>\$15,448,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,813,160</u>
Local Assistance Grants, Totals	\$15,448,000	\$ 5,813,160
Total Expenditures		
Expenditures	Budgeted	Actual
State Operations, Totals	\$ 4,590,596	\$ 4,243,538
Local Assistance Grants, Totals	<u>\$15,448,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,813,160</u>
Expenditures, Totals	\$20,038,596	\$10,056,698

* Represents Fiscal Year 2009/10 appropriation available for 3 years

** Represents the amount encumbered of the \$10 million awarded during the 2010/11 grant cycle

Note: Totals may not calculate properly due to rounding

Budget Detail

State Operations:

Personal Services	Budgeted	Actual
Salaries and Wages	\$ 1,728,280	\$ 1,654,118
Staff Benefits	<u>\$ 546,474</u>	<u>\$ 543,522</u>
Personal Services, Totals	\$ 2,274,754	\$ 2,197,640
Operating Expenses & Equipment	Budgeted	Actual
General Expense	\$ 212,181	\$ 162,187
Travel - In State	\$ 110,103	\$ 39,470
Travel - Out of State	\$ 2,612	\$ -
Training	\$ 12,500	\$ 11,465
Facilities	\$ 261,380	\$ 239,955
Utilities	\$ 9,733	\$ 11,142
Information Technology	\$ 106,523	\$ 63,889
Contracts - External	\$ 249,098	\$ 247,949
Contracts - Interagency Agreement	\$ 1,133,752	\$ 1,054,133
Other Items of Expense	\$ 16,116	\$ 13,864
Pro Rata (Control Agency Costs)	<u>\$ 201,844</u>	<u>\$ 201,844</u>
Operating Expenses & Equipment, Totals	<u>\$ 2,315,842</u>	<u>\$ 2,045,898</u>
State Operations, Totals	\$ 4,590,596	\$ 4,243,538

Boardmembers

The governing Board is made up of 16 members; 13 voting and 3 non-voting members. Listed below are members representing the Board for 2010 through June 2011.

Governor's Appointments

B.J. Kirwan..... Board Chair, Public Member
Pedro Reyes..... Designated Representative, Chief Deputy Director, Policy, Department of Finance
Bob Kirkwood..... Public Member
Todd Ferrara..... Designated Representative, Deputy Secretary for External Affairs, Natural Resources Agency
Vacant..... Public Member

Legislative Appointments

John Brissenden.....Speaker of the Assembly's Appointment
Bob Johnston..... Senate Rules Committee's Appointment

Local Government Representatives: Each of six Subregions is represented by a member of the Board of Supervisors from a county within the Subregion (as selected by the counties), and each representative serves a two-year term.

North Sierra Subregion

Brian Dahle..... Supervisor, Lassen County

North Central Sierra Subregion

Bill Nunes..... Supervisor, Sierra County

Central Sierra Subregion

Ted Owens..... Supervisor, Nevada County

Hal Stocker 2010..... Supervisor, Yuba County

East Sierra Subregion

Linda Arcularius..... Supervisor, Inyo County

Don Jardine 2010..... Supervisor, Alpine County

South Central Sierra Subregion

Dick Pland..... Supervisor, Tuolumne County

Paolo Maffei 2010..... Supervisor, Tuolumne County

South Sierra Subregion

Tom Wheeler..... Supervisor, Madera County

Jon McQuiston 2010 Supervisor, Kern County

Nonvoting Liaison Advisors:

Daniel Jiron..... U.S. Forest Service
Rob Macwharter (2010).. U.S. Forest Service
Kathy Hardy..... Bureau of Land Management
David Graber, Ph.D. National Park Service



Sierra Nevada Conservancy Staff

Executive Staff

Jim Branham.....Executive Officer
Joan Keegan.....Assistant Executive Officer
Tristyn Armstrong.....Executive Assistant
Theresa Burgess.....Board Liaison/Policy Analyst
Kim Carr.....Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator

Program Staff

Kerri Timmer.....Program Manager
Marji Feliz.....Funding and Resource Development Coordinator
Angela Avery.....Grants Administrator
Lisa Forma.....Grants Program Analyst
Janet Cohen.....Grant Writer
Barbara Harriman.....Grants Support

Mt. Lassen Staff

Bob Kingman.....Mt. Lassen Area Manger
Linda Hansen.....Mt. Lassen Area Senior Representative
Chris Dallas.....Mt. Lassen Area Representative
Brittany Juergenson.....Mt. Lassen Area Representative
Lynn Campbell.....Mt. Lassen Area Representative
Julie Griffith-Flatter.....Outreach and Partnerships/Mt. Lassen Area Representative

Mt. Whitney Staff

Julie Bear.....Mt. Whitney Area Manager
Brandon Sanders.....Mt. Whitney Area Representative
Elizabeth van Wagtendonk.....Mt. Whitney Area Representative
Autumn Hutchings.....Mt. Whitney Area Support
Mandy Vance.....Mt. Whitney Project Consultant
Bobby Kamansky.....Mt. Whitney Project Consultant
Elissa Brown.....Grant Writing Consultant

Administration and Information Services Staff

Theresa Parsley.....Administrative Services Manager
Pete Dufour.....Information Officer
Dave Madrigal.....Information Technology Analyst
Shelly Owens.....Budget and Contract Analyst
Amy Lebak.....Human Resources and Business Services Analyst
Lynda Young.....Administrative Services Support

Retired Annuitants

John Gussman	Dianna Metts	Joyce Bray	Mark Stanley
Elyse Lang	Laurie Keith	Janet Bovolick	Shana Avalos



Appendix A: Authorized Grants

Title of Project	Subregion	Total
Ackerson Meadows: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls	South Central	\$65,000
Barry Property Pre-planning	North	\$66,438
Bruin Ranch Property Acquisition	Central	\$1,000,000
Camp Sacramento Erosion Control and Habitat Improvement Project	Central	\$144,300
Cinnamon Ranch Agriculture and Resource Protection Project	East	\$735,000
Complying with CEQA for Forest Management: Natural & Cultural Resource Surveys in Coldstream Canyon - Donner Memorial State Park	Central	\$59,816
Deer Creek-Mill Creek Acquisition: Pre-Project Planning	North Central	\$125,000
Grand Bluffs Forest 2011-2012	South	\$92,472
Hazel Creek and Hazel Creek Campground Restoration	Central	\$153,466
Hope Valley Meadow Restoration	East	\$129,000
Humbug Creek Watershed Assessment and Management Plan	Central	\$197,592
Invasive Weed Management in the Merced River Corridor	South Central	\$192,270
Little Chico Creek Appraisal Project	North Central	\$20,000
Lone Pine Water Reclamation Feasibility Study	East	\$121,440
Long Meadow Restoration Project	South	\$72,320
Lower Ash Creek Wildlife Area Restoration Project	North	\$1,000,000
Markleeville Creek Restoration Project	East	\$220,700
Mono County Land Donation and Exchange	East	\$61,814
Pre-acquisition Work on Four Strategic Land Conservation Projects	South	\$198,500
Rodden Ranch Conservation Easement	South Central	\$1,000,000
Rudnick Ranch Acquisition	South	\$500,000
Sierra Crest Working Forest Conservation Easement Phase III	North Central	\$540,000
South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project	North	\$142,062
Stockton Creek Preserve and Trail	South Central	\$1,000,000
Topping Ranch Conservation Easement	South	\$875,890
Upper Tuolumne and Stanislaus Watersheds Meadows Restoration	South Central	\$151,156
Webber Lake and Lacey Meadow Acquisition	North Central	\$1,000,000
White Sulphur Springs Ranch Hydrologic and Spring Protection Plan	North Central	\$75,000
Willow Creek Watershed Restoration Planning Project	South	\$60,764
GRAND TOTAL		\$10,000,000

Appendix B: Completed Grants

Subregion	Project Name & Accomplishments
North	South Knob Sagebrush Steppe Watershed Restoration Project 136 acres of watershed treated and restored, including establishing 19 monitoring sites and a grazing stewardship plan.
	Pit River Planning & Development Project 4 restoration projects identified and designed along 2 miles of the main stem of the Pit River.
	Lower Ash Creek Restoration Planning Project 3.5 miles of habitat restored for several threatened and endangered species.
North Central	Big Chico Creek Watershed Linkage Project 447 acres appraised for future acquisition to protect 15 river miles of riverine/riparian habitat and 9,474 contiguous acres along the Big Chico Creek Watershed.
	Sierra Buttes/Lakes Basin Acquisition - Biehl parcel on Lusk Meadow .25 acre of sensitive meadow land acquired at the headwaters of Salmon Creek.
	Lemon Canyon Ranch Acquisition 4,320 acres of working landscapes and wildlife habitat protected through conservation easement at the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Feather River.
	Meadow Ranch 237 acres of plant and wildlife habitat and wet meadows protected by easement along 2.5 miles of creek in the Feather River Watershed.
	Sierra Nevada Rangeland 2008 Pre-Project Due Diligence Tasks, Key Brand Angus Ranch 560 acres of high-priority rangeland, wet meadow and riparian area appraised for future conservation easement in the North Fork of the Feather River Watershed.
Central	Lower Squaw Creek Restoration - Phase 2 3 visioning and technical analysis workshops completed - involving hydrologists, aquatic species and watershed restoration experts, adjacent land owners, and others - to develop a series of project design alternatives for restoring the river channel of Lower Squaw Creek.
	Eastern Placer Creek Signage 79 pollution-reducing educational signs designed, produced and placed at 40 different creek crossings along 27 waterways stretching from Auburn to Squaw Valley.
	Assessing and Restoring Deer Creek Watershed 83 square-mile watershed assessed and restoration projects identified as part of a comprehensive plan addressing both ecological and cultural restoration opportunities and needs.
	Collins Lake Acquisition (Siller Property) 529 acres acquired at Collins Lake to protect 1 mile of Dry Creek riparian habitat as well as extensive blue oak and gray pine woodlands; leveraged protection of another 1,383 acres.
	Sierra Nevada Rangeland 2008 Pre-Project Due Diligence Tasks, Penobscot Ranch 330 acres of rangeland appraised and environmental site assessment prepared for future conservation easement in the American River Watershed.

Appendix B: Completed Grants (Continued)

Subregion	Project Name & Accomplishments
South Central	Defensible Space Inspection Program 4,291 properties inspected for defensible space compliance in the Calaveras County foothills in order to reduce the threat of wildland fires.
	Regional Water & Wastewater Reconnaissance Study for Highway 4 Corridor Opportunities to correct water and wastewater delivery system deficiencies identified by seven different communities.
	Love Creek Working Forest Conservation Easement 413 acres of Sierra mixed conifer forest protected under conservation easement in Calaveras County.
	Bohna Ranch Conservation Easement 840 acres of oak woodlands and grasslands protected under conservation easement in Mariposa County.
	Merced River Center, Phase 1 Completed extensive remodeling of the historic visitor center and regional community room, including structural improvements, purchase of new furnishings and equipment and creation of a new mural for visitors that depicts an underwater view of the Merced River.
	East
Eastern Sierra Watershed Project 1,685 students from 5 grade levels worked with trained scientists to collect data to document changes in vegetation, soils, wildlife, aquatic life, stream channel shape and water quality along the river. Studies created opportunities for students to better understand both the need and strategies to protect the health of the watershed.	
Region-wide	Sierra Nevada Alliance Land and Water Project 1,000+ “Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden” guides distributed to homeowners. Three workshops held to train groups to run local conservation programs. Completed consultations with 129 homeowners to assess individual properties and assist them create action plans that control erosion, use native planting, conserve water and create defensible space.
	Learning Landscapes 16 miles of perennial streams and 1,680 acres of riparian habitat, mixed conifer forest, meadows and pasturelands protected through negotiated MOU agreements for use in outdoor education programs.
	Independence Lake Acquisition 2,325 acres of land conserved at Independence Creek.
	Sierra Cascade Foothill Region Conservation Plan Riparian corridors and water resources in the 500–3,000 foot elevation of the Sierra Nevada Region assessed and mapped using GIS to include climate change data and future conservation opportunities.
	Sierra Nevada Trails & Recreation Initiative - Planning 24 volunteer crew members trained and 8 crew leaders hired to implement trail projects that enhance, restore and control erosion on more than 31 miles of wilderness trails in the Inyo, Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests.
	Watersheds and Protected Lands for the Sierra Nevada GIS inventory completed for protected lands in the Sierra; watershed-based maps and other interactive web tools developed and made available through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Web site.
Page 26	26 Completed Projects



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Thank you to the following organizations for contributing photos:

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Protect American River Canyons

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