



The Sierra Fund's 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Sierra Fund's mission is to increase and organize investment in protecting and restoring the natural resources and communities of the Sierra Nevada region

INCREASING VISIBILITY OF OUR SIERRA

- ◆ TSF's research projects were featured at multiple conferences in 2016 including the Bay-Delta Science Conference (BDSC), where we presented a cluster of five posters highlighting our "Headwater Mercury Source Reduction Strategies," the Society for Freshwater Science Conference (SFS), and the American Geophysical Union Conference (AGU), where we convened both oral and poster sessions on the topic of "Developing Comprehensive Assessment Strategies for Mining-Impacted Landscapes to Inform Land and Water Management Decisions."
- ◆ TSF presented and gave a tour of Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park as part of the Society for Environmental Journalists Conference, spoke at numerous other events, and successfully planned and coordinated the Sierra Nevada Alliance's Annual Conference for the second year running.

RECOGNITION FOR OUR WORK

- ◆ TSF CEO Izzy Martin received the prestigious James Irvine Leadership Award, which we invested in a strategic planning effort that included a retreat with our staff, board, and experts in science and policy. The resulting five-year strategic plan, to be released in 2017, includes a marketing component to increase the visibility of the unique issues of our region as well as a targeted plan for securing resources and fostering partnerships to benefit the Sierra.
- ◆ TSF's CEO was also awarded the California Wellness Foundation Sabbatical Award for leaders of social services and community health oriented non-profits in California, aimed at facilitating the long term effectiveness of leadership and enhancing the professional development of their teams. Izzy will take her sabbatical in the summer of 2017.
- ◆ TSF was honored at the South Yuba River Citizen League's annual State of the Yuba as SYRCL's Partner of the Year for our collaborative work around restoring resiliency to the Yuba River Watershed.

CALIFORNIA MINING LAW REFORM

- ◆ TSF has continued to be involved in the process to improve regulations on suction dredge mining to protect water quality and cultural resources (following the passage of SB 637), providing input into the permit development process currently underway at the State Water Resources Control Board.
- ◆ TSF was instrumental in the passage of two bills, SB 209 (Pavley) and AB 1142 (Gray), written to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) and improve enforcement and reclamation of mine sites in California. These bills represent the most significant reform to mining law in a generation.

& ACTIVITIES

TOURS



TSF led participants in our quarterly Mercury Forum on tours of project sites that are part of our DWR-funded Sediment and Mercury Abatement Initiative, including the above pictured Forum at Malakoff Diggins

AWARDS



TSF CEO Izzy Martin pictured with Assemblymember Brian Dahle, receiving the prestigious James Irvine Foundation Award. Mr. Dahle recognized Izzy's leadership in September, 2016 as an outstanding leader in his district

CONFERENCES



At the Bay-Delta Science Conference, TSF presented a cluster of five scientific posters that were selected to be featured in the upstairs atrium at the Sacramento Convention Center on the first day of the conference

EDUCATING CALIFORNIANS

- ◆ TSF, in partnership with the South Yuba River Citizens League and Wolf Creek Community Alliance, held our second annual Fish Post-It Day event to post state-issued fish consumption advisories at local water bodies. To date this pilot project has resulted in over 140 signs posted and the development of a model posting protocol that can be adopted locally and in other communities.
- ◆ TSF continued to collect and analyze mercury levels in fish species from six lakes and three rivers in the CABY region, in order to provide data to OEHHA for site-specific fish consumption advisories. In November, we sent our 2016 catch to be analyzed at a trace metals laboratory.
- ◆ TSF convened a quarterly Mercury Forum of regional stakeholders to ensure that the methods used to assess and address sediment and mercury contamination in the Sierra are effective, consistent, and represent best-practices for scientific research.
- ◆ TSF continued our highly effective strategy of educating leaders about the impacts of California's mining history and the progress that is being made to address it through on-the-ground tours of the Gold Country. In 2016 we had the pleasure of taking the Chair and Executive Officer of the State Mining and Geology Board on tour, in addition to journalists, scientists, students, and participants in our Mercury Forum.

COORDINATING MINE ASSESSMENT & CLEANUP PROJECTS

- ◆ TSF has continued to execute and coordinate our existing projects including our project to assess water quality at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park; our work to clarify due diligence processes in the public acquisition of mine-impacted lands (Champion Mine Acquisition project); and our partnership with the Nevada Irrigation District in their innovative projects to remove mercury and sediment from Combie and Rollins reservoirs.
- ◆ TSF has launched a new collaborative project for a Headwater Mercury Source Reduction (HMSR) strategy on public lands in partnership with the United States Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest. This project aims to identify, assess, and prioritize for remediation mines and mine features that are sources of mercury in headwater ecosystems.

GROWING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

- ◆ TSF moved into an amazing new office space in June, complete with a spacious conference room and lab space for our scientific research activities. If you have not had the opportunity to stop by, we invite you to do so in the New Year!
- ◆ TSF bid a fond farewell to long-time staff member and Program Director Kerry Morse who returned to her home state of Montana. At the same time we have built the capacity of existing staff to move forward seamlessly in her absence.
- ◆ TSF has now grown to a team of eight in the office, welcoming new staff member Beth Bordner as Operations Manager and bringing our former AmeriCorps Member Kelsey Westfall on staff as Outreach Coordinator and Policy Assistant. We also welcomed April Sall who works as the Director for Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership, for which TSF serves as fiscal sponsor.

FISH POST-IT DAY



TSF held our second annual Fish Post-It Day event in 2016 and coupled it with our first ever Fishing for Fun family education day to spread the word about how to safely consume locally caught fish

ONGOING RESEARCH



TSF with NID studying sediment removal at the Greenhorn Creek arm of Rollins Reservoir on the Bear River

A GROWING ORGANIZATION



TSF held an extremely productive strategic planning retreat at Sorenson's Resort in April that has resulted in a forward thinking 5-year strategic plan to increase the resiliency of Sierra Nevada ecosystems and communities