



The Sierra Fund's 2015 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 and partners from across the Sierra celebrated the tenth anniversary of the creation of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, one of TSF's first strategic initiatives. Since its founding in 2005 after TSF's successful advocacy effort, the Conservancy has provided critical capacity building in the Sierra region including making grants that total over \$54 million.
- ◆ TSF launched the Resources Policy Education Project, in order to engage public policy decision makers about timely issues related to water, forests, ecosystems, culture and the economy of California's rural areas. In July, TSF and Assemblymember Dahle hosted seven members of the legislative Black Caucus for an educational program at Lake Tahoe as part of this project's efforts to increase understanding of the importance of our region's water to the State.
- ◆ CEO Elizabeth Martin was honored to deliver the keynote speech at the annual Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference, in which she urged the Alliance and its member groups to increase the visibility of Sierra regional issues in the California State Capitol.

CALIFORNIA MINING LAW REFORM

- ◆ TSF sponsored and successfully advocated for the passage of SB 637, which now requires that suction dredge mining be permitted by the State Water Resources Control Board under the Clean Water Act—a major victory for California water quality.
- ◆ CEO Elizabeth Martin was invited to participate in Governor Brown's stakeholder process to improve the implementation of the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). This process resulted in collaborative ways to reform enforcement of SMARA, which were then included in another TSF-sponsored bill (SB 209) carried by Senator Pavley that is poised to pass in the 2016 legislative session.

PHILANTHROPIC SERVICES

- ◆ The Deer Creek Tribute Trail project received its second W. Lon Cooper Award for New Construction, presented by the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce. This year's award is for the Angkula Seo suspension bridge constructed in the most recent phase of the project, which was led by TSF.
- ◆ As part of our mission to provide fiscal capacity for groups in the region, TSF took on fiscal sponsorship of four organizations working to protect and preserve the Sierra: Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership, Sierra Water Workgroup, Local Water Stays Local, and Bear Creek Watershed Group.

& ACTIVITIES

TOURS



The Sierra Fund Science Director leads a tour of historic mining features for a group of over 20 environmental regulators from China's Sichuan Province

BUILDING (GREAT) BRIDGES



The new Angkula Seo Bridge, part of the Nisenan Tribute Site on the Deer Creek Tribute Trail, received the the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce 2015 award for new construction

POST-IT DAY!



On Post-It Day 2015, volunteers and staff posted nearly 100 fish consumption advisory signs at local lakes and reservoirs

EDUCATING LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERS

- ◆ TSF—in partnership with the South Yuba River Citizens League, Wolf Creek Community Alliance and a team of over 30 volunteers—in a single day posted nearly 100 state-issued fish consumption advisory signs at lakes and reservoirs in the Bear and Yuba watersheds. This was the first ever volunteer event of its kind in the Sierra, and we plan to make it an annual event to ensure that people fishing at these locations are aware of the risk of mercury in certain local fish.
- ◆ TSF launched an ambitious two-year study to collect and analyze mercury levels in fish species from six lakes and three rivers in the CABY region, in order to provide the data needed for site-specific fish consumption advisories at these locations. In 2015 we got this project off to a great start by collecting a total of 112 fish from four species groups.
- ◆ TSF showcased the ongoing impacts of California's mining history, and the progress that is now being made to address it, to numerous leaders in 2015, most notably the new Director of the California Department of Conservation, staff from the California Local Agency Formation Commission, various scientists and students, and a delegation of environmental regulators from the Sichuan Province in China.

COORDINATING MINE ASSESSMENT & CLEANUP PROJECTS

- ◆ After four years in the making, with California Department of Parks and Recreation and other partners, TSF released *Humbug Creek Watershed Assessment and Management Recommendations*, a technical report outlining an assessment of mining impacts and recommendations for action to improve water quality at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.
- ◆ TSF assisted the Nevada Irrigation District to showcase and conduct technical demonstrations of their innovative project to remove mercury and sediment from their reservoirs, bringing over 100 individuals and policymakers to see this promising pilot project.
- ◆ TSF held our third biennial Reclaiming the Sierra Conference at CSU Sacramento, a two-day event that drew together more than 200 participants, 50 speakers, 31 sponsors, and 14 student poster session participants, to lend their expertise and resources to address the issue of the ongoing impacts from legacy mines in California.
- ◆ TSF launched the CABY Mercury Forum which meets quarterly to provide regional coordination of the \$1.5 million DWR-funded Sediment and Mercury Abatement Initiative.

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

- ◆ TSF welcomed Gary Parsons as our newest Board Member at our annual winter reception.
- ◆ TSF has now grown to a team of nine in the office, welcoming new staff members Jenny Michael, Administrative Assistant and Alex Keeble-Toll, Development and Program Assistant, as well as our newest AmeriCorps member Alec Arditti as Research Assistant.

RECLAIMING THE SIERRA CONFERENCE



TSF's third biennial conference, Reclaiming the Sierra: The New Gold Rush, held April 20-21 at California State University Sacramento

GONE FISHING



TSF AmeriCorps member and graduate student collecting fish samples for mercury analysis from Lake Clementine

A GROWING ORGANIZATION



TSF staff (and Jimmy the dog) December 2015