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SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

**Sierra Nevada Alliance  
15th Annual Conference &  
Anniversary Celebration  
September 12-14, 2008  
North Tahoe Conference Center  
Kings Beach, CA**

# Leading in a Climate of Change:

***Hot Topics, Cold Facts and New Answers  
for the Sierra***

*Join us in North Tahoe for the best conservation conference in the Sierra!  
Inspiring speakers, informative workshops, fun field trips and terrific networking. And, don't forget the Awards  
and Party on Saturday night to celebrate the Alliance's 15th Anniversary. See inside for conference program  
and registration information. Check our website for a list of convenient lodging and camping options, and for  
the latest conference updates at [www.sierranevadaalliance.org](http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org)*

*printed on recycled paper with soy ink*

# Sierra Nevada Alliance 15th Annual Conference & Anniversary Celebration

September 12-14, 2008

North Tahoe Conference Center  
Kings Beach, CA



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

*Keeping light in the range.*

## Leading in a Climate of Change:

*Hot Topics, Cold Facts and New Answers  
for the Sierra*

The Sierra Nevada, while an international icon sported on hundreds of products, has often been seen by those within and without the region as California's poor stepchild. Rural with a limited population but a wealth of natural resources, the region has been exploited and frequently left out of key statewide decisions. But after fifteen years of excellent research articles and reports, strong efforts establishing a new state agency dedicated to the region, a united regional conservation movement of over a 100 groups, and myriad collaborations with diverse stakeholders, the stepchild days are over. Come discuss how the region, conservation groups and Sierrans can now lead in a changing climate. Join others to celebrate our past 15 years and strategize together how to save the Sierra, be a leading region in adapting to climate change, achieve sustainable communities and contribute to saving the world.

### **Friday, September 12**

9:30 - 4:30

#### **Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden Summit**

Participate with other Sierra homeowners, organizations and agencies, learning tips and techniques for creating a conservation-minded landscape that defends against wildfire, is in harmony with Sierra wildlife, reduces pollution, deters invasive weeds and conserves water. One Summit track is for organizations/agencies interested in starting their own homeowner consultation program. The other track teaches individual homeowners practical tips for creating the yard and garden of their dreams while protecting the Sierra. *This workshop is not included in the regular conference registration fee. The cost for this daylong workshop is an additional \$15, including lunch.*

1:00 - 5:00

#### **John Muir Laws Field Sketch Field Trip**

Join field guide author and illustrator Jack Laws for an afternoon of sketching, art instruction and nature study to jump start keeping your own nature/travel journal. Examine tricks and techniques to draw landscapes, wildflowers, and wildlife. Learn how to draw a landscape or an animal on the move! Bring paper and pencil, but supplies will be provided for those without.

6:00 - 8:00

#### **Registration, Welcoming Reception & Tim Palmer Slide Show**

Kick-off the Alliance's 15th Annual Conference and Anniversary Celebration with award-winning author and photographer Tim Palmer! See slides from Tim's new book, *Luminous Mountains: The Sierra Nevada of California*, meet new and old friends, and relax on the deck overlooking stunning Lake Tahoe.

# Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference Program

## Saturday, September 13

7:30 - 8:45

*Registration and Continental Breakfast overlooking Lake Tahoe*

8:45 - 9:00

Welcoming Remarks

9:00 - 10:00

### **Keynote Speaker: Invited Tom Knudson**

Tom Knudson's 1991 series *Sierra in Peril* in the Sacramento Bee inspired a public outcry spawning many efforts to save the Sierra. Since his series he has attacked the nation's environmental movement, explored critical issues around the globe and is currently investigating what Climate Change is bringing to the Sierra. Come hear this 'fierce friend's' thoughts on the last fifteen years and the future of the Sierra.

10:00 - 11:00

### **Plenary: Sierra Then and Now - 15 Year Retrospective**

In 1992 a Sierra Now conference created a vision for the future of the Sierra, sponsored by Environment Now, a number of foundations, and groups. Sierra leaders gathered for two days and charted a vision including founding the Sierra Nevada Alliance, creating a Sierra Nevada Conservancy, creating a baseline ecosystem inventory (i.e., SNEP) and much more. Fifteen years later many of these ideas have, through the hard work of many, come to fruition. Come recognize some of the original Sierra Now Steering Committee members and hear from a few what we can celebrate, what never happened, and their dreams for 15 years from now.

11:15 - Noon

### **Sierra Nevada Alliance Annual Meeting and Group Reports**

Come hear last year's successes, challenges and actions of terrific conservation groups that are members of the Sierra Nevada Alliance. From Susanville to Sacramento to Bishop to Springville, learn about the latest, greatest and outrageous. Also, briefly elect new board members for the Alliance board.

Noon - 1:00

*Lunch on the deck overlooking Lake Tahoe*

1:00 - 2:30

### **Member Group Reports Continued**

2:45 - 4:15

### **Workshop Session 1**

- **Replacing a "growth economy" with a "green economy":** Is growth necessary for a healthy economy? Do subdivision fees really pay for their infrastructure or do they just lead to the need for more growth to sustain these costs? How can Sierra communities capitalize on recreation, ecotourism, local agriculture, or in some other way have a green rather than growth economy?
- **Cutting Edge Alliances:** Environmental advocates are increasingly working with unusual allies, groups 'on the other side' of an issue and other diverse community members. This panel will explore successful alliances in the Sierra, pitfalls and tips on how to build and sustain them.
- **Too Many Taking to the Trails? Recreation Management in the Sierra:** As the population of the Sierra triples, what new challenges do we face? This workshop explores the historical and current recreational use trends in public lands and wilderness areas. Come learn about methods for managing recreation today, and the perceived and real social and ecological consequences of too many humans in the backcountry.
- **Meadows & Climate Change - a Winning Adaptation Tool:** Learn the incredibly important role that meadows play in Sierra ecology and hydrology. Learn techniques to identify meadow dysfunction and restoration techniques that restore lost function from Sierra restoration experts.

4:15 - 6:00

**Break Time and Optional Presentations:** Presentations include a slide show by author Tim Palmer, updates on the PG&E Stewardship Council, and much more. See our website for details!

6:00

### **Celebrate 15 Years of Sierra Successes! Dinner, Silent Auction, Awards and Party**

Enjoy great company, a fun auction, and dinner celebrating 15 years of regional success. Following Dinner there will be an Open Irish Session sponsored by The Sierra Fund. A talented group of musicians will anchor the evening - but please feel free to bring your own instruments or voice and join in.

# Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference Program

**Sunday, September 14**

7:30 - 8:45

*Registration and Continental Breakfast overlooking Lake Tahoe*

8:45 - 9:30

## **Key Note: John Muir Laws - Inspiration in a Climate of Change**

Naturalist, educator, artist, and wildlife biologist, John Muir Laws will share his unbounded appreciation and love of the Sierra, his dream of expanding people's commitment and stewardship of the range, and his hope for the future. Promoting that folks should "link with like-minded people" and join conservation groups, hear his ideas for blossoming our movement to lead in a changing climate.

9:45 - 11:15

## **Workshop Session 2**

- **Native Sierrans - Leading Sierra Change:** Hear from a panel of Tribal representatives from the different parts of the range talking about the environmental problems they confront and their efforts and successes. Our first human residents continue to showcase true environmental stewardship from which we can all learn.
- **Sierra Grown - Local Agriculture Movements:** Locally grown efforts rejuvenate local economies, create community life, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create direct relationships between farmer and consumer, and more. Come hear about what's working and what's not in several regions of the Sierra.
- **Still Groundwater Runs Deep:** The state of knowledge surrounding ground water in the Sierra Nevada is lamentably limited. What is the status of that knowledge, who has it, and what (if anything) do we need in order to move forward? This workshop will look more "deeply" into the issue of communities with great ground water reliance and the possibility of a mapping program.
- **Opportunity or Crisis: Forest Management and Climate Change:** Learn about Carbon Sequestration and discuss what opportunities and challenges we have in the Sierra. Discover how different forest management practices mitigate or exacerbate climate change. Is there potential to turn the crisis of a rapidly changing climate into an opportunity for sustaining Sierra forests and communities?

11:30 - 1:00

## **Sierra Now - Strategizing to Lead in a Changing Climate**

Come participate in this interactive strategy session where we will jointly strategize what the key activities and milestones our Sierra conservation movement should set for the Sierra's future. Come share your ideas for what our conservation movement must work together on to achieve a future we choose for Sierra lands, water, wildlife and our rural communities. This session will launch into a post-conference effort to build a collective regional vision that could chart how to Save the Sierra over the next 15 years.

1:00 - 2:30

## **Lunch and Sierra Future Panel**

Come hear from young leaders sharing their vision and hopes for the Sierra 15 years from now. This panel will be composed of visionaries that include a Sierra teenager, AmeriCorps member and a young staffer working with a conservation group. What does our youngest generation see as important for protecting and restoring a vibrant Sierra?

Visit the Alliance website for program updates, speaker information and more details.

Registration is also available online.

[www.sierranevadaalliance.org](http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org)



# 2008 Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference Registration Form

Please print clearly. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis.

Name(s) (as appearing on badge(s)): \_\_\_\_\_

Title(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Friday - Sierra Nevada Yard and Garden Summit

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of attendees @ \$15/per person (fill in below) - includes lunch

## Saturday and Sunday Sierra Nevada Alliance Annual Conference

Conference registration includes the following 5 meals (with vegetarian options): Saturday - Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner; Sunday - Breakfast and Lunch. Conference registration does not include lodging.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY RATES

(specify # of adults)

\_\_\_\_\_ Alliance Member Group Member/Donor\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Non Member/Non Donors

\_\_\_\_\_ One Day (specify Sat/Sun \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth Registration Ages 14-20

\_\_\_\_\_ Dinner only (no conference)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Children under 10 receive dinner free)

	Early Bird (rec'd by 7/31)	Regular (rec'd 8/1-8/31)	Walk In (if available)
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\$175

\$200

\$225

\$200

\$225

\$250

\$100

\$115

\$125

\$100

\$125

\$135

\$ 40

\$ 40

\$ 40

### Please check meals you will attend:

Friday Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ Sat Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ Sat Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ Sat Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ Sun Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ Sun Lunch \_\_\_\_\_

<p>Refund Policy</p> <p>\$25 cancellation fee if request is made 2 weeks or more before conference</p> <p>\$75 cancellation fee if request is made 1 week before conference</p> <p>No refund after September 10.</p>
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**Total Sat/Sun Conference** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Friday S.N Yard & Garden Summit** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

\* For Alliance membership/donor information, contact Kathy Haberman: [kathy@sierranevadaalliance.org](mailto:kathy@sierranevadaalliance.org) or call 530.542.4546. Conference scholarships, including travel & lodging may be available. Please contact Kathy at the e-mail/phone listed above.

### Payment Method: (Payment also available via web on the conference page at [www.sierranevadaalliance.org](http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org))

Check  Make payable to the Sierra Nevada Alliance  
Mail check with registration form to: PO Box 7989, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158

Visa  Mastercard

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: Mo \_\_\_\_\_ Yr \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by credit card, fax registration form to 530.542.4570 or mail to the Sierra Nevada Alliance, PO Box 7989, S Lake Tahoe, CA 96158

