2020 will always stand out in the history of The Sierra Fund, our partners, and our supporters. It was a year where we redefined how we do our work – and where we work. A year where we grew bigger in reach but smaller in office space. A year where we managed to stand together with each other and our community – in spite of staying six feet apart. In 2020 we leapt over “virtual” hurdles to tend to a long-standing programmatic approach and “zoomed” our way into new projects all with the goal of restoring a resilient Sierra Nevada.

Over the last year we:

• Responded to the urgent need for accessible content while sheltering in place by launching a virtual “Lunch ‘n Learn Series” about our work, hosting zoom workshops about our Headwater Mercury Source Reduction Strategy, and revamping our website.

• Launched a project at the Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor in Nevada City, in partnership with the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project, that will build Tribal visibility and increase outdoor recreational opportunities with a new segment to the Deer Creek Tribute Trail.

• Began work in partnership with Yuba Water Agency, Blue Forest Conservation, and the United States Forest Service to quantify ecosystem benefits of hydraulic mine remediation and meadow restoration in forest health projects.

• Supported access to cleaner air spaces during wildfire while minimizing COVID complications, for all community members.

We continued to:

• Defend our rivers from suction dredge gold mining, standing with the Karuk Tribe and others in advocating that the State Water Resources Control Board prohibit this activity.

• Implement our Headwater Mercury Source Reduction Strategy with projects that address source control and improve risk communication about fish consumption in the Sierra.

• Support improved integrated regional water management planning through consultation with Tribes, and engagement of disadvantaged communities to identify new projects for their communities that are eligible for state funding.

We are beyond grateful for the support we have received from our community of partners, donors, and volunteers over this last year. We cannot do this without you.

For the Sierra,

Elizabeth “Izzy” Martin
Chief Executive Officer
Financial Statement

Statement of revenue and Expenses
January 1 – December 31, 2020

Thank you Donors! We would like to acknowledge all of the individuals and businesses that have supported us over this last year. We could not have done it without you!

Albert and Lynne Dover
Alice Gidel
Alison Harvey and Dave Loera
Allan Chen
Allan James
AmazonSmile Foundation
Bob Barrett and Linda Atkinson
Bob Kimberling
Brian Wenzl and Liz DeMott
Richard Gordon
Carol Casaday
Caroline Francisco
Chauncey Poston
Chuck and Kim Carroll
Debra Sitzberger
Dian Schaffhauser and Suzanne Doyle
Diana Neff
Don and Madeleine Simborg
Ean Price Murphy
Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust
Elizabeth Maclean
Evans Phelps
Gary Frankel
Gary Parsons
Gary Patton
Gerald and Barbara Meral
Greater Champion Neighborhood Association
Elizabeth Martin
John Anderson
Joanne and Ken Hughes
Jonathan Novotney
Joseph Bell
Joseph and Marilynn Keeble
Julia and Mike Laney
Julia Leavengood-Boxer
Julie Olson
Katrina and David Williams
Lauren Russo
Lee May
Louis Blau
Lucy and Bruce Bottrell
Mark and Keri Dahlstrom

REVENUE

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<td>Donations &amp; DAF Contributions</td>
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EXPENSES

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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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NET INCOME

$196,003.00

Program Expenses by Category

- Ecosystem Resiliency 19%
- Environmentally Healthy Communities 18%
- Capacity Building 63%
In 2020, The Sierra Fund advanced three core programs, carefully interwoven across disciplines to achieve lasting equitable change for the region we serve.

**Restoring Ecosystem Resiliency**

The Sierra Fund’s Ecosystem Resiliency Program (ERP) employs cutting-edge replicable approaches to assess and restore headwater forests, meadows, and rivers devastated by the 19th century Gold Rush. In 2020 The Sierra Fund demonstrated that achieving multiple benefits including improved water quality, water quantity, and carbon storage is not only possible but critical in the face of predicted climate change impacts on the Sierra Nevada region.

**Empowering Environmentally Healthy Communities**

In 2020 The Sierra Fund’s Environmentally Healthy Communities Program (EHCP) advanced sustainable community health outcomes by improving risk communication about public exposure to legacy mining contaminants found in fish and dust, engaged priority populations in projects to reduce the impacts of wildfire smoke, and supported opportunities for Tribes to employ traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in land stewardship.

**Building Capacity in the Sierra Nevada**

In 2020, The Sierra Fund’s Capacity Building Program (CBP) increased and organized public and private investment in the interest of the natural resources and communities of the Sierra to the benefit of the entire state. From a platform of environmental justice, The Sierra Fund advocated directly for funding for the Sierra, built the visibility of the region in the Capitol, and strengthened opportunities for collaboration across a diverse set of stakeholder from the Sierra to the sea.
Key successes across our programs in 2020 include:

Advancing the Headwater Mercury Source Reduction Strategy: In 2020 The Sierra Fund greatly increased the visibility of our mining program. A key component of our work to address ecosystem resiliency in the Sierra Nevada is a comprehensive approach to abating mercury contamination in the headwaters through our Headwater Mercury Source Reduction (HMSR) Strategy. The Sierra Fund held two HMSR Workshops, bringing together over 100 agency leaders, nonprofit organizations, universities, and technical experts to share best-practices for addressing legacy mercury contamination associated with mine-scarred landscapes in California.

The political will to implement the HMSR Strategy was strengthened at our second HMSR Workshop of 2020 on November 12, when Jared Blumenfeld, California Secretary for Environmental Protection, was our keynote speaker and called for a statewide approach to address abandoned mine lands (AMLs). The Workshop helped us to refine our next steps, including developing a coalition of state agencies that can be encouraged to coordinate and collaborate on the AML issue from the Sierra to the sea. We leveraged the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) report (Improving California’s Response to the Environmental and Safety Hazards Caused by Abandoned Mines) which highlights our work raising these issues.

Lunch-n-Learn Series: During the spring and summer months of 2020, The Sierra Fund launched our Lunch-n-Learn webinar series (see https://sierrafund.org/the-sierra-funds-lunch-n-learn/), a well-attended series of 14 weekly presentations given by The Sierra Fund’s staff covering the range of our projects and programs. The recordings have been made available on each applicable program or project page of our new website. These have proved to be especially useful in keeping key partners informed of our projects during this time of physical distancing.

Thank you! We would like to acknowledge all of the Foundations that have supported us over this last year:

- Bella Vista Foundation
- The Campbell Foundation
- Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation
- Firedoll Foundation
- The Klungness Family Foundation, Inc.
- Giles W. and Elise G. Mead Foundation
- Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
- Resources Legacy Fund
- Schwemm Family Foundation
- Sierra Health Foundation
- True North Foundation
- 3Degrees Group, Inc.

Thank you Donors! We would like to acknowledge all of the individuals who have supported the Sarah Forslund Fund for Environmental Leadership, a Donor-Advised Fund of The Sierra Fund:

- Adam Ruben
- Amy Floyd
- Amy and Jason Markus
- Barbara and Bruce Dear
- Barbara Forslund and Phil Klingner
- Betsy and Robert Andersen
- Cameron and Frances Wolfe
- Carl and Ellen Hall
- Charles Brock
- Colin and Moana Yost
- Daniel Kelliher
- Deborah and Bill Kruzel
- Douglas Phelps
- Emily and Dave Rivenes
- Gary and Janice Zimmerman
- Gerald and Barbara Meral
- Heather and Daniel Collis-Puro
- James Mooers
Key successes across our programs in 2020 include:

**Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor:** The Sierra Fund has been supporting our Tribal partners, the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP), the non-profit representing the Nevada City Rancheria, Nisenan, as they work to implement culturally informed land management practices at the 32-acre Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor which they acquired in 2018 through a grant administered by The Sierra Fund. The property was once the site of the Champion Mine and has areas of legacy mining contamination. In 2020 The Sierra Fund worked with CHIRP to develop a Nisenan Cultural Land Management Plan (NCLMP) that prioritizes the Nisenan’s vision for the property. A component of the NCLMP is a new segment of the Deer Creek Tribute Trail that is being designed by the Bear Yuba Land Trust.

**Forest Health Projects:** As a result of our work with the Nevada City Fire Safety Advisory Committee we were integral to the development of the “City Slivers” Project and Adopt-a-Parcel maintenance program. City Slivers are small bits of land that are sometimes not even considered parcels. A GIS map of all City Slivers was developed by a CSU Chico graduate student intern and The Sierra Fund helped the City launch a Go-Fund-me page for the project. To date, nine City Sliver properties have been paired with local residents that want to “adopt” them once they are professionally treated. The model we have created can be taken to other cities in the Sierra in need of innovative approaches to become “fire safe.”

**Cleaner Air Spaces:** In the face of climate change, residents across the Sierra are vulnerable to the unsafe air quality impacts of wildfire. Air quality managers recommend that sensitive populations stay indoors during smoky conditions but the efficacy of this approach is dependent on how well a building limits smoke intrusion. The Sierra Fund has identified public health leaders and developed a pilot strategy for Nevada County to support equitable access to “cleaner air spaces” in order to mitigate health impacts related to wildfire smoke. This project was funded by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).
By the Numbers

In 2020, amidst a world-wide pandemic, stay at home orders, and intermittent Public Safety Power Shutoffs, The Sierra Fund:

- Held 14 informational webinars around our programs and projects and 2 Workshops around our HMSR Strategy.
- Facilitated 5 Tribal-led projects to be written into the Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan.
- Supported Tribal partners in implementing process-based restoration through installation of more than 75 beaver dam analogs (BDAs) at meadows in the Sierra.
- Surveyed 105 buildings in Nevada County with the potential to serve as “cleaner air spaces” in the event of a wildfire.

“The Sierra Fund is emerging from the COVID pandemic strong and ready to serve as the state’s leading advocate to restore resilience to the ecosystems and communities of the Sierra Nevada for the next 20 years.”

Elizabeth “Izzy” Martin
The Sierra Fund Board of Directors

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Alison Harvey, Secretary
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Robert Meacher, Board Member
Timothy Seward, Board Member

The Sierra Fund 2020 Staff

Elizabeth “Izzy” Martin, Chief Executive Officer
Carrie Monohan, Ph.D., Program Director
Alex Keeble-Toll, M.A., M.Sc., Administrative Director
Nick Graham, M.S., Environmental Scientist
Greg Thrush, Environmental Justice Community Organizer
Laura Carroll, Development Manager
Beth Bordner, Financial Associate
Jenny Michael, Office Manager

The Sierra Fund

The Sierra Fund is a place-based organization committed to the land and people of California’s Sierra Nevada headwaters. We rely on the principles of science, stewardship, environmental justice, and policy advocacy to operationalize our mission to restore ecosystem and community resiliency.

For more information, contact us at:

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