Brownfields Revitalization

Support for counties and cities in the Sierra Nevada to identify, assess, and revitalize abandoned mine lands.

The Sierra Fund brings technical expertise, public participation and funding resources together to assess and remediate mine impacted land in the Sierra.

“The Sierra Fund found us when my staff and I were at a crossroads in the remedial process and were concerned about continued funding. The Sierra Fund staff provided us with encouragement and grant information. I found them passionate and experienced, especially when helping small communities. I greatly appreciated their mental and technical support.”

Yvonne Kimball
City Manager,
City of Jackson

The Sierra Nevada is riddled with abandoned mines and mine impacted lands that if assessed and cleaned up can be developed and reused. These abandoned mine lands can present hazards from arsenic, lead, and mercury. The Sierra Fund is offering support to agencies and organizations interested in accessing financial and technical resources to remediate Brownfields in their Sierra communities.

A Brownfields site is a property with the real or perceived presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant which can complicate development or reuse. Abandoned mine lands are not remote or far away, they are often present where Sierra residents live, work, and play. When remediated, these sites are valuable assets to communities. Left unremediated, they can pose serious liabilities for landowners and public health and safety threats.

The good news is that numerous cities and counties throughout the nation have cleaned up and developed these Brownfields properties helping meet their goals for reusing these properties while also facilitating job growth, and improving and protecting the environment and public health.

“The Sierra Fund
Principal Engineer, NV5 -
Technical Engineering Firm

Cities, Counties and other landowners have found reusing Brownfield sites beneficial
The 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included an unprecedented $1.5 billion investment in the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) Brownfields program. With this level of funding comes new resources to support local efforts for remediating Brownfields in the Sierra.

The Sierra Fund has over a decade of experience securing financial resources, conducting technical assessments, and remediating abandoned mine lands. The Sierra Fund staff has extensive relationships with state agencies and the federal EPA and a deep understanding of how to qualify for their Brownfields programs’ financial assistance. The Sierra Fund has conducted abandoned mine land remediation projects and has a network of consulting firms that provide assistance and that understand the Sierra’s unique challenges.

The Sierra Fund is offering free consultation to cities, counties, and other landowners interested in assessing or remediating Brownfields. The Sierra Fund can identify financial and technical assistance to help. Staff understand from our past partnerships that many cities, counties and other landowners lack the time and budget to write and manage new grants for this work. The Sierra Fund has partnered to write grants or connected local government partners with other qualified grant writers. Staff are happy to review proposals and offer suggestions to increase the competitiveness of the proposal. Once funded, The Sierra Fund can provide ongoing technical consultation or connect partners with other experts to support assessment and clean-up.

Why is The Sierra Fund offering this support? It’s TSF’s mission to restore resiliency to the Sierra. We have found our partnerships with cities and counties to be incredible fruitful in cleaning up these mine-impacted lands for reuse, benefitting community health and the environment, while also better supporting the local economy.

“There are a lot of grant opportunities and ways that EPA can provide assistance and The Sierra Fund has been helping connect local governments, tribes and non-profits to our resources.”

Eric Byous, Project Manager
EPA Brownfields

Contact us:
Email Carrie Monohan Ph.D., Program Director at the Sierra Fund for an initial consultation to learn more and explore what resources might be a good match to fill your needs.

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And/or visit our website for additional information on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and EPA Technical Assistance and other resources: sierrafund.org/brownfields-support