



The Sierra Fund's 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Sierra Fund's mission is to restore ecosystem and community resiliency in the Sierra Nevada

RESTORING ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCY

MINES AND FORESTS: In the face of catastrophic wildfire, TSF is blazing a trail to forest management. Our inferno-prone lands are a product of the Gold Rush era of resource extraction. Working with Tahoe National Forest and funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, our multi-benefit approach integrates mine remediation with fuels reduction to improve forest health and reduce catastrophic fire, mudslides and mercury-contaminated discharge from hydraulic mines.

MEADOWS: During our second year of monitoring and restoration activities at the Clover Valley Ranch, we have doubled the number of engaged stakeholders. This effort includes graduate students (CSU, Chico and UC Davis); avian experts (Point Blue Conservation); botanists (Plumas Corporation); federal partners (Natural Resources Conservation Service); and the Original People of the area (Mountain Maidu). We have installed 4 beaver dam analogues, led key monitoring activities, and planted 7,000 willow trees.

FISH: We are ramping up our advocacy for the restoration of volitional passage for spring-run Chinook on the Yuba. Temperature data that TSF collected over the last two years shows adequate holding habitat exists above Lake Englebright – the fish just need to be able to get there! TSF provided extensive comments to the US Army Corps of Engineers on their draft ecosystem feasibility report, urging them to fully evaluate restoring volitional fish passage to the upper Yuba River watershed.

MINING POLICY REFORM: The SWRCB is developing a water quality permit for suction dredge mining and TSF has played a critical role by providing technical knowledge on this now decade-long fight to protect California's waters. We still have to remind many involved in the process about the science demonstrating that mercury is mobilized by recreational suction dredge miners.

INCREASING VISIBILITY OF GOLD RUSH IMPACTS

THEORY OF CHANGE: At our Annual Legislative Reception, we released a new organizational brochure that diagrams our recipe for success: a programmatic arc whereby investment in the Sierra increases its resiliency. We begin all of our projects by scoping a 360-degree view of the problem and end with a vision for how to sustain the change of healthy lands and healthy people into the future. We invite you to view the brochure on our website.

PUBLISHED: TSF Science Director co-authored a peer-reviewed research paper titled "Long-term hydraulic mining sediment budgets: Connectivity as a management tool," which has been accepted to the journal: *Science of the Total Environment*.

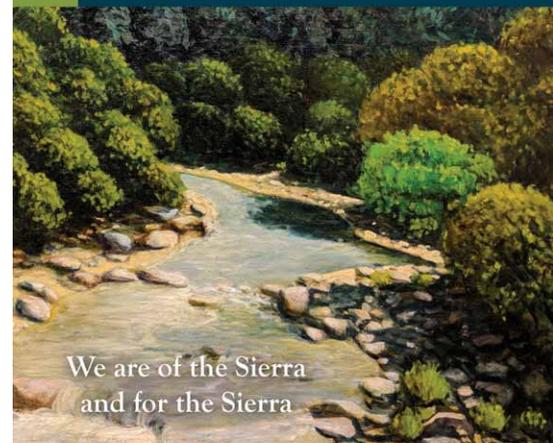
CONFERENCES: TSF demonstrated the breadth and persistence of Gold Rush impacts across a variety of disciplines in 2018. We presented at the Western Mining Action Network Conference, the Global Climate Action Summit, the Bay-Delta Science Conference, and the California Lake Management Society Conference.

& ACTIVITIES

NEW BROCHURE

THE SIERRA FUND

RESTORING
RESILIENCY IN THE
SIERRA NEVADA



We are of the Sierra
and for the Sierra

Early this year, TSF proudly released our new organizational brochure highlighting three central programs and strategy to increase investment and therefore improve resiliency.

ART AND SCIENCE



At the Bay-Delta Science Conference we highlighted the Sierra-to-sea legacy of mercury with an artist-scientist collaborative installation.

ENVIRONMENTALLY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

BILINGUAL ENGAGEMENT: With the hire of our bilingual Environmental Justice Community Organizer, we became the first organization of our kind to reach “the other 5%” - Spanish-speaking Sierra Nevada residents. We translated many of our materials into Spanish and have been conducting on-the-ground outreach at apartment complexes, grocery stores and local events to better understand the environmental health concerns of this segment of our community.

POST IT DAY: At our 4th annual Post It Day event held in May, permanent fish consumption advisories were posted for the first time at four locations in Nevada County. In total, over 100 locations have been posted in 5 watersheds, with many locations posted in both Spanish and English. Following this year’s event, we filmed a short video demonstrating how to properly interpret the advisories.

STATEWIDE ADVISORY AWARENESS: This fall we surveyed reservoir managers to learn if and why they post fish consumption advisories or what barriers prevent them from posting. We administered the survey at the California Lake Management Society conference in October. The survey was subsequently shared by the State Water Resources Control Board to owners and operators of reservoirs that are listed as impaired due to mercury. Survey results will be used to identify opportunities to increase and improve fish consumption advisory posting by reservoir managers.

CONVENING OUR COMMUNITY: In November we held an Environmental Health Summit in Grass Valley to explore four issues unique to residents and visitors to the Gold Country: (1) Mercury in Fish, (2) Dusty Exposures, (3) Water Quality and Access, and (4) Wildfire and Air Quality. The event, co-sponsored by the Nevada County Department of Environmental Health and attended by over 50 community members, was an opportunity to learn how these environmental health challenges impact our community and what to do about it.

BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE SIERRA

CABY LEADERSHIP: In 2018 TSF wrapped up a seminal project on sediment and mercury abatement funded by the Department of Water Resources for the Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba watershed region. The sediment and mercury abatement work has included pilot assessment and remediation activities at hydraulic mines and a reservoir, and quantification of mercury exposure through angler survey and fish tissue data collection.

ACQUISITION FOR CULTURAL PRESERVE: After years of diligent work, we are excited to announce that with funding from the California Natural Resources Agency, we successfully transferred a beautiful piece of creek side land to the California Heritage Indigenous Research Project, a nonprofit organization working in partnership with the Nisenan people of the Nevada City Rancheria.

BODIE HILLS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP: Our fiscally sponsored partner Bodie Hills had another successful year protecting one of the most biodiverse areas on the Eastern side of the Sierra – a Great Basin landscape that is a stronghold for sage grouse and pronghorn antelope.

SIERRA INVESTMENT: In 2018 TSF granted over \$40,000 to nonprofit organizations through the generosity of our private donors and funders.

POSTING FISH ADVISORIES



Permanent fish consumption advisories were installed in both English and Spanish, during our 2018 Post It Day event.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION



Our 10th Annual Legislative Reception honored Sierra visionaries including Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia, seen here with TSF Board Member Alison Harvey.

TOURS



We are increasing the visibility of the many mine features scattered about in our forests with on-the-ground tours.