

# Living the Good Life

## The resources of the Sierra Nevada provide Food, Shelter, Water, Energy .....

Few Californians likely understand the many benefits that come from the Sierra Nevada region. For example, most of California's water comes from the Sierra Nevada. The region is the primary source of hydroelectric power generated in the state and a significant contributor of wood products for building. Its forests and woodlands provide habitat for hundreds of species, help to clean our air and store carbon (an important component in reducing the impacts of climate change).

*The resources of the Sierra Nevada are put to work every day to serve Californians living within as well as outside the region.*

### Food on the Table

The foothills and valleys of the Sierra Nevada are home to many farms, ranches, orchards, and vineyards. These "working landscapes" not only produce valuable agricultural commodities, they contribute to habitat, help maintain water and air quality, remove carbon from the atmosphere to combat climate change and provide open space. In addition, these lands are an important part of the local economy, culture, and social fabric.

### Timber and wood products

Sierra Nevada forests provide up to 50% of California's annual timber supply and are another type of "working landscape" in the region. Like other types of working landscapes, sustainably managed forests also contribute to habitat, water and air quality, carbon sequestration, and open space.

### Snow to Water

When you think of the snow covered mountains you probably don't think you will be drinking that snow someday.

The Sierra provides California with over 65% of its water. The snowpack provides a great natural storage system. In the Spring, the snow melts and the water flows down the rivers through the valleys, providing many benefits throughout California.

### Producing Renewable Energy

About 75% of California's hydroelectric power is generated in the Sierra Nevada. As California works to increase its reliance on renewable energy sources there are additional opportunities for the Sierra Nevada to make a positive contribution. Potential sources include energy production from biomass cogeneration, geothermal, wind and solar.

**Every Californian is affected by the many benefits flowing from the Sierra Nevada region.**

*Investing in the long term health for this region is essential.*

### FACT:

**An acre of Sierra Nevada forest removes more carbon from the atmosphere than an acre of Amazon rain forest.**

