

# SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE



## — SYRCL IMPACT REPORT — 2024







# BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT WE WERE ABLE TO



## EDUCATE

over 6,000 students  
from 36 Title I schools  
in California



## UNITE

over 500 volunteers to  
remove 5 tons of trash  
from 80+ miles of river



## RESTORE

8 acres of salmon habitat,  
271 acres of meadow and  
meadow edge habitat, and  
over 4,000 acres of forest  
treatments



## ADVOCATE

for Chinook salmon,  
steelhead trout, and green  
sturgeon through public  
process and litigation



## INSPIRE

30,000 people with over  
160 environmental and  
adventure films in dozens  
of states across the US









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# A LETTER FROM SYRCL'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SYRCL was founded as a grassroots movement striving to preserve nature and protect freshwater in the South Yuba River. As I reflect on the past year, I am confident that we continued to have a meaningful impact on those universal values of wild spaces and clean water. As you'll see in the following pages, we are working hard every day to protect and restore the Yuba River watershed through advocacy, science, education, and outreach.

As with all tasks this large, we cannot do it alone. The help of supporters like you empowers us to do this work. Over 1,000 volunteers have stepped in and stepped up to help us care for the river, educate students and visitors, and inspire thousands at the Wild & Scenic Film Festival. They motivate us all to become better stewards of our watershed. The 3,500 individuals who make up SYRCL's membership provide essential support for our teams. With the financial backing of our members, we continue to be able to develop innovative projects to preserve and restore the Yuba, whether that is working to restore salmon habitat, creating more resilient meadows and forests, or working with policy makers advocating for environmental protection.

As a testament to the power of this community to come together, this year the Nevada Irrigation District Board voted to stop all planning for Centennial Dam and sell off the excess lands acquired for the project. This was a hard-fought victory for this community and the Bear River, which was only possible because of the values we share. Building relationships with NID Board Members and helping them honestly weigh the environmental and financial costs of the project against any benefits ultimately made for an easy and much celebrated vote by the NID Board.



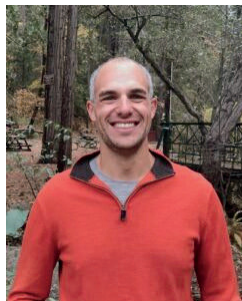
The SYRCL office also spent the previous year looking forward, as we updated our Five-Year Strategic Plan. Our updated strategic plan is inspired by all of the work we have done with a focus on deepening our positive impact across the Yuba River watershed and everywhere its water flows. Highlights include a focus on more educational opportunities for students of all ages, deepening the inspiration of the WSFF by offering more collaboration opportunities for filmmakers and attendees, building relationships so our advocacy for a clean, healthy environment is more effective, continuing to repair the environmental damage of the last 150 years, and organizing engaging and exciting community events.

We are dedicated to expanding the impact we have throughout the watershed and meeting the challenge of climate change. We are effective because of your generosity and support. It is our hope that this report highlights the accomplishments we made with your help in 2024, and that it points to a future which is sustainable for humans and the environment alike.

For the Yuba!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L ZM', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke underneath.

Aaron Zettler-Mann  
March 2025





# ADVOCACY

During the past year, our advocacy team continued to give voice and agency to the river, the watershed, and its inhabitants through the use of hard scientific evidence. This work, integral to SYRCL in its formative years, continues today as we engage meaningfully with issues, call the community to action, coordinate with coalition partners to broaden and enhance impact, track policy, attend hearings and meetings, and urge local, state, and federal officials to do what's best for our community and our watershed.

2024 was marked by two significant wins in which SYRCL played an important role, along with many others:

**Idaho-Maryland Mine Stopped** — In February of 2024, the Board of Supervisors cast their final vote sealing the fate of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, making a strong statement in favor of protecting our air, water, and quality of life. This was a long battle which SYRCL engaged in alongside a number of community organizations. SYRCL helped rally supporters, analyzed environmental impact reports and economic impact reports, helped craft impactful letters, and made numerous public comments at meetings. In the end, the Supervisors recognized the mine for the environmental and economic catastrophe that it was, thanks in part to SYRCL's diligent, science-based analysis of questionable environmental analyses and faulty economic assumptions.

**Centennial Dam No Longer a Threat** — In September of 2024, a decade of effort by SYRCL and this community paid off again when the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) Board of Directors voted to effectively stop all work on the proposed Centennial Dam. This vote was the culmination of over ten years of research, education, public discourse, and relationship building. In a time of record drought and climate change, this dam would have been an economic liability for NID, potentially demanding even more water from the Middle Yuba to be transferred to the Bear River. All without addressing the water challenges it was intended to solve. SYRCL would also like to recognize the NID staff who worked so hard on their rigorous Plan for Water analysis which helped quantify the issues and shortcomings with the Centennial project, and the time and care spent by the NID Board for their interest and commitment to following the science.



## We also continued our work on ongoing initiatives...

**Yuba Salmon Now** — SYRCL worked closely with non-governmental organizations and agency partners to advance our ambitious vision of a healthy salmon population that can swim freely from summit to sea. We monitored happenings at the local, state, and federal levels for potential direct impacts to Yuba salmon. SYRCL continued to advocate for Yuba salmon in the Bay-Delta Plan, urging common sense and quantifiable flow accounting. We also worked closely with agencies on the proposed Nature-Like Fishway around Daguerre Point Dam (DPD), part of a larger settlement agreement between Yuba Water Agency, CDFW, and NOAA Fisheries. This proposed project has the potential to make upstream and downstream migration around DPD easier for adult and juvenile salmon, while also allowing sturgeon to access the river above DPD for the first time since 1906. SYRCL continues to analyze and evaluate the benefits and risks of the proposed project.

**Growing Green for the Yuba** — SYRCL engaged in policy discussions surrounding Nevada County's proposed changes to the exclusion zone ordinance including providing written and public comments at Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings. SYRCL tracked state-level efforts to support equity and environmental practices in the cannabis industry. SYRCL also continued to advance education and outreach through the facilitation of in-person workshops and participation in educational events including a coffee talk at the 2024 Wild and Scenic Film Festival hosted by Nevada County Cannabis Alliance, Nevada County, and UC Berkeley Cannabis Research Center. We also actively sought new funding opportunities to support and expand our work, particularly in support of our cannabis water quality study protocol and our work on best management practices for sustainable cannabis cultivation in Nevada County.

**Dams and Hydropower Reform** — SYRCL and non-governmental organization partners filed numerous comments on ongoing hydropower relicensing issues that impact salmon and fisheries in the Yuba watershed, including relicensing of the Narrows 1 Project, comments on an annual flow variance request by the Yuba Water Agency for the Yuba River Development Project (YRDP), as well as changes to New Bullards Bar Dam. SYRCL also engaged in discussions related to the Atmospheric River Control Spillway modification at New Bullards Bar advocating for additional analysis for how it could be used to produce a more natural flow regime in the lower Yuba River.



## **SYRCL continued to advocate for the Yuba watershed by:**

1. Calling attention to the impacts of proposed local, regional, and state-wide projects and initiatives
2. Advancing efforts which increase available habitat throughout the watershed
3. Working to improve fish passage on the lower Yuba River







# MEADOW RESTORATION

Meadows are key to a healthy watershed because they provide critical habitat for many species of mammals, birds, fish, and amphibians, have high carbon storage capacity, and contribute to downstream water quality and late season flows. Unfortunately, of the 200,000 acres of meadows in the Sierra Nevada, approximately 70% are in a degraded state. SYRCL works to restore headwater meadows to enhance the potential ecosystem services they provide.

**Van Norden Meadow** — In 2024, SYRCL and partners completed the second year of post-restoration monitoring, continued tree thinning and encroaching conifer removal to reclaim meadow edge habitat, installed additional beaver dam analogs in Castle Creek, and conducted adaptive management actions to encourage revegetation. Phase 2 implementation, focused on the Lytton Fan within Van Norden Meadow, is on track to implement in fall of 2025.

**Haskell Peak Five Meadow Complex** — SYRCL and partners implemented year two of restoration on 229 acres across five meadows in the North Yuba watershed. In 2024, the project used low-impact, process-based restoration techniques such as beaver dam analogs and also removed relic roads and culverts to achieve restoration goals. To date, a total of 414 beaver dam analog, post-assisted log structures, and head cut repair structures have been installed across the five project meadows.

**Castle Valley Trailhead** — SYRCL and partners completed Final Designs and held a second public outreach meeting in 2024 to aid in the development of a trailhead to improve access to the Castle Peak trail while reducing environmental degradation associated with the lack of formal trailhead facilities at this popular site.

**Castle Valley & Round Valley Meadow Restoration** — In 2024, SYRCL received a \$405,000 grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board Block Grant being administered by Point Blue and the Sierra Meadows Partnership (SMP) to pursue the planning phase of a meadow restoration project at Castle and Round Valleys. This past summer, SYRCL staff began collecting baseline data on plant communities, soil carbon, groundwater, and surface water which will be used to inform restoration designs.

**Advancing Meadows** — In 2024, SYRCL received a \$156,000 grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board Block Grant being administered by Point Blue and the Sierra Meadows Partnership (SMP) to assess and prioritize meadows for restoration throughout the North Yuba. Assessments will be conducted on meadows mapped by the University of California-Davis using the American River Scorecard, while “lost meadows” identified by the US Forest Service’s Lost Meadow Model will be assessed using a new protocol that is in development. Since securing project funding, SYRCL staff, in partnership with American Rivers and the Tahoe National Forest, have been working on formalizing this new protocol and conducting desktop analyses to support field work in 2025.





# FOREST HEALTH

SYRCL's work in Forest Health evolved and expanded in 2024 to meet the ever-changing needs of forest restoration across our watershed. We deepened our collaborative relationships with local and regional partners, and workshopped new ways to support watershed-wide forest resilience planning and education efforts. SYRCL plays a pivotal role in regional collaborative facilitation and invested heavily in identifying priority forest needs across the watershed through new and existing stakeholder relationships. The Forest Health team initiated an exciting new project focused on watershed condition monitoring of forest treatment locations on the North Yuba, and added a Forest Health Project Coordinator as a permanent new addition to support these expanded efforts.

**North Yuba Forest Partnership** — SYRCL remains a leading partner of the North Yuba Forest Partnership (NYFP) and supported vital Partnership growth and change in 2024. The Partnership oversees the North Yuba Landscape Resilience Project (NYLRP), which covers 275,000 acres of forest restoration across the North Yuba River watershed. SYRCL continues to lead key Partnership committees and work closely with environmental review and permitting specialists on the Project. SYRCL staff contributed to several field tours of the Project landscape throughout the year, and represented the Partnership at a variety of forest health conferences. Additionally, SYRCL expanded our role by developing a watershed condition monitoring project for the North Yuba landscape. This project expands SYRCL's current efforts in River Monitoring, gathering water quality data at key sites near planned forest treatment areas of the NYLRP. The new project also includes monitoring of riparian vegetation in response to forest treatments. These monitoring efforts will greatly contribute to the NYFP's adaptive monitoring strategy for the full Project landscape.

**Aspen** — SYRCL staff began working on restoration planning for the Salmon and Packer Creek Aspen Restoration Project, a 300-acre footprint of high elevation aspen habitat in the Gold Lakes Highway Region. The aspen stands within this Project were selected as the highest restoration priority within the Yuba River Watershed through an analysis of aspen habitat using a novel aspen prioritization tool which SYRCL developed. This prioritization tool considers factors such as stand connectivity, elevation, and potential to persist in a warming climate to rank stands in order of restoration priority. Once restored, the aspen stands in the Salmon and Packer Creek Aspen Restoration Project will provide valuable climate refugia habitat for a variety of flora and fauna that depend on healthy riparian habitats.

**Yuba Forest Network** — The Yuba Forest Network brought effective forest stakeholder engagement to the watershed in 2024. The Network hosted four quarterly meetings, including presentations on topics from project tracking ideas to County community wildfire planning. It also distributed bi-monthly newsletters highlighting local and regional updates, opportunities, and project information. YFN also planned and facilitated two field tours, visiting a prescribed fire project on local private property and touring a forest resilience and fuels reduction project at Sugar Bowl Ski Resort. Three YFN committees met regularly throughout the year, including a Steering and Outreach Committee, a Landscape Prioritization Committee, and a Stakeholder Mapping Tool Committee. The YFN also worked closely with Nevada County partners on public outreach and engagement activities, developing long-term outcomes for work with key forest health stakeholders.

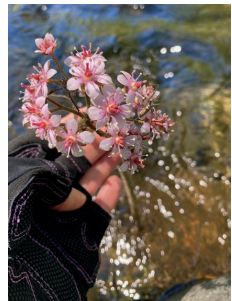




# RIVER MONITORING

2024 marked twenty-four years of continuous river monitoring and volunteer-based community science. In January 2024, SYRCL and Sierra Streams Institute (SSI) co-presented findings with the community in a presentation titled, “What is Clean Water?” This presentation focused on the water quality monitoring being done by both organizations to measure the health of our local rivers and streams. SYRCL focused on sharing results from the full 23-year dataset examining high summer water temperatures at lower watershed sites, the impacts of dams on intra-annual trends in downstream water temperatures, and changes in conductivity due to development impacts.

**6PPDq sampling** — In 2020, 6PPD-quinone (6PPDq) was identified to be a lethal pollutant causing high mortality in coho salmon in Washington state. Chinook salmon and steelhead are also adversely affected by 6PPDq. 6PPDq originates from a tire additive that helps prevent tires from degrading. In 2024, SYRCL received funding to sample 6PPDq in the Yuba River watershed. Our first sampling results were worryingly high along I80 near the headwaters of the Yuba. Over the coming years, SYRCL will continue sampling for 6PPDq to better understand the severity of the pollutant in the North Yuba and below Englebright and to enhance our advocacy for chinook salmon and steelhead.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- 434 trained volunteer scientists of all ages
- 106,500 water quality measurements recorded
- Over 31,765 volunteer hours donated
- 98% of all data passed precision and accuracy standards

# RIVER RESTORATION

The Yuba River once supported a thriving ecosystem with an abundant fish population and habitat for wildlife, but the on-going impacts of legacy mining and dam construction have caused fish populations in the lower Yuba River to decline precipitously. These declines are exacerbated by frequent drought conditions made worse by climate change. Our work helps to restore habitat so these populations can recover.

**Lower Long Bar** — 2024 wrapped up the final year of post-project monitoring after construction was completed in November 2022. This project created 42 acres of floodplain, side-channel, and backwater habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Data collected from snorkel surveys, benthic macroinvertebrate sampling, and vegetation recruitment surveys will tell us more about the habitat benefits this restoration project brought to native species. We are looking forward to the final monitoring report summarizing these findings in 2025.

**Upper Long Bar** — In April 2024, SYRCL successfully closed out a planning grant funded by Wildlife Conservation Board that supported permitting, project design to the 65% level, and pre-implementation monitoring of the Upper Long Bar project. Shortly afterwards, SYRCL helped secure funding to elevate designs to the 100% level. We anticipate that the project will be ready for implementation and the next phase of monitoring in 2026.

**Hallwood** — As a vital project partner, SYRCL supported continued post-project monitoring of the restored side channel and floodplain areas. The Hallwood restoration project has won several awards since its completion, including the Floodplain Management Association's Integrated Flood Management Award, Engineering News Record's Award of Merit, Associated General Contractors of California Constructor Award, and the American Society of Civil Engineers Region 9 Environmental Award.

**Rose Bar** — In 2024, SYRCL completed the final phase of construction, which enhanced two riffles, a side channel, and created a spawning and rearing bench to improve habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead. This project added/enhanced roughly 7 acres of spawning habitat in the final reaches of the lower Yuba River before Englebright Dam. SYRCL conducted post-project spawning surveys shortly after construction and counted 283 redds (salmon nests) - compared to the 7 identified during two years of pre-project monitoring



# EDUCATION

Our River Education program aims to create lifelong stewards of the Yuba River watershed by providing educational opportunities for kindergarteners through adults. Thanks to the support of foundations, grantors, and donors, thousands of students and community members join us each year to learn about our watershed and its wonders.

**Salmon Expeditions** — The 2024 Salmon Expedition season was our largest season yet! Participating 3rd-5th grade students received a pre- and post-field trip lesson in their classrooms. SYRCL's Education Department hosted 70 classes and 2 public community trips. 2,257 students, teachers, and community members floated down the lower Yuba River to witness spawning salmon and to learn about SYRCL's restoration work and the lasting impacts of the Gold Rush on the ecosystem and Nisenan tribe.



**Field Science** — In 2024, SYRCL hosted one Youth Outdoor Leadership Opportunity (YOLO) expedition and two Earthwatch Institute Girls In Science high school field science expeditions in the mountain meadows near the headwaters of the Yuba River. Seven students from Nevada and Yuba counties participated in YOLO. Twelve students from throughout California and one student from Milwaukie, OR participated in the eight-day Girls in Science expeditions. During these programs, students worked with SYRCL scientists and educators to assist with monitoring and restoration work in Loney and Van Norden meadows. Monitoring activities included collecting groundwater data, vegetation surveys, and calculating stream channel depths. Restoration tasks included installing cattle exclusion fencing around aspen stands, and removing invasive grasses, like reed canary grass.

**High School Water Quality Project** — Students from Nevada Union's Climate Change Club, Bitney Prep Charter High School, and Ghidotti Early College High School participated in our 2024 water quality project. 60 students learned how to collect water quality samples to assess the health of local streams. Participating students created a Public Service Announcement centered around river and watershed stewardship.

**Wild & Scenic Film Festival School Programs** — The TK to 8th grade School Programs were held at Del Oro Theater in 2024. 3,123 transitional kindergarten through 8th grade students attended a program at Del Oro Theater representing 20 schools. 678 high school students participated in the program at Nevada Union's Don Baggett Theater. 310 students viewed the films during a school assembly hosted by a SYRCL Educator. Our education programming reached 4,111 students and teachers from 24 schools, introducing them to contemporary environmental issues through films and accompanying curriculum.



**Monique Streit, SYRCL's Education Director, selected as the 2024 Northern California Environmental Educator of the Year** — The California Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education selects two Environmental Educators of the Year – one in Northern California and one in Southern California – for their outstanding contributions to the field of environmental and outdoor education.

- **Awarded the Environmentalist of the Year Scholarship to Asher Perla from Marysville Charter Academy for the Arts**
- **Reached 6,000 students with our programs**
- **Connected with 36 Title I Schools**





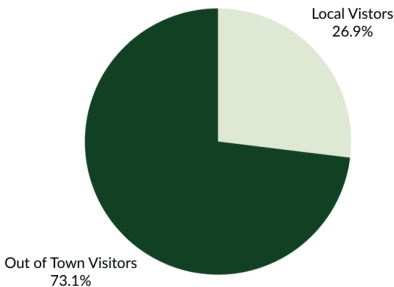
# RIVER VOLUNTEERS

**River Ambassadors** — Stationed on weekends from 10:00 to 2:00, primarily at Bridgeport and Highway 49 Crossings with an occasional presence at Purdon and Edwards, SYRCL's River Captains were joined by 23 volunteer River Ambassadors from Memorial Day to Labor Day. This dedicated team promoted an ethic of responsible, non-polluting use of the river by speaking one-on-one with visitors at crossings, beaches, and on trails. Using a friendly, non-confrontational approach, River Ambassadors educated folks about the impacts of trash and dog waste on the watershed, the dangers of broken glass, and the catastrophic potential of wildfire.

SYRCL's River Ambassadors: 5/24/24 - 9/2/24

Total People Encountered: 34,980

Total Interactions: 6,597



## Other Stats:

1,661 Dogs Counted  
431 Piles of Dog Poop  
Picked Up  
6,971 Pieces of Trash  
Removed  
1,009 Cigarette Butts  
Removed



**Yuba River Cleanup** — We held our 27th annual Yuba River Cleanup event on Saturday, September 28, 2024. **500+ volunteers** donated more than 1,500 hours to help **remove over 5 tons of trash and recycling** from nearly 80 miles of the Yuba watershed. The theme was "Together for Tomorrow" which expresses the power of a community that comes together for a common cause.





# **WILD & SCENIC<sup>®</sup> FILM FESTIVAL**

**where activism gets inspired**

SYRCL's Wild & Scenic Film Festival is one of the nation's premier environmental and adventure film festivals and has been inspiring activism and environmental stewardship since 2003. It's also SYRCL's largest annual event, drawing thousands of attendees, filmmakers, activists, athletes, and artists to the Sierra Nevada foothills annually.



Image: Mike Shea

The 22nd annual festival took place over 5 days from February 15-19th while still having a virtual component, which ran from February 15-25th. The year's central theme was Reel Action; the programmed films, art exhibitions, and workshops reflected the importance of working together to improve the environment and ignite the necessary social changes to make this planet more equal and just for all.

# **WILD & SCENIC<sup>®</sup> FILM FESTIVAL** where activism gets inspired

SYRCL's Wild & Scenic Film Festival is proud to be a significant contributor to the local Nevada County economy, with an annual impact of more than \$700,000. It drives tourism and spending during what is traditionally a "slow" period for local businesses. The festival screened films in 7 venues throughout Nevada City and Grass Valley and utilized an additional 5 venues for other festival programming, as well as hosted the annual EnviroFair which welcomed community organizations to table and bring awareness of their work to the festival attendees.

The festival hosted 80 special guests, including filmmakers, jury members, and speakers. It also gathered nearly 300 volunteers. Approximately 3,500 people participated in the film festival, and nearly 4,000 students engaged in the school programs offered during and post-event.



Image: Haley Wright



Image: Mike Shea

Following the flagship event, Wild & Scenic took the festival On Tour, bringing a selection of films to hundreds of organizations around the country. Our On Tour Program helps these like-minded groups to raise support and awareness of their mission while inspiring activism in their community and increasing the environmental groundswell near and far.

Annually WSFF helps host organizations raise nearly \$1,000,000 for their work in their communities. With 105+ Wild & Scenic On Tour events a year, our programming now reaches over 30,000 people annually via partnering with land trusts, waterkeepers, schools, and other NGOs.



# Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

In support of SYRCL's mission "to unite the community to protect and restore the Yuba River watershed," we envision justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) as core values and key principles influencing SYRCL's entire operation and community going forward.

SYRCL recognizes the inherent link between racial and environmental justice and strives to work toward both. We commit to learn and grow in our understanding of the systemic nature of white supremacy culture so that we may advocate for systemic changes to discover, honor, and incorporate the diverse perspectives and knowledge of all people, regardless of socio-economic status, especially BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and differently-abled communities within the Yuba watershed and everywhere the Yuba flows.

Through this lens and our work, we seek to strengthen SYRCL's vision of "a vibrant, science-based community organization that serves as a leader for environmental stewardship and activism in the Yuba River watershed."

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

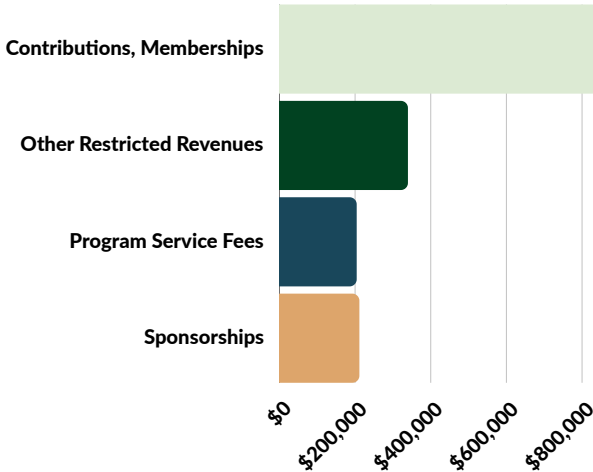
SYRCL works throughout the Yuba River watershed on the Ancestral and Traditional homelands of the Nisenan Tribe and includes shared boundaries with the Mountain Maidu, Konkow, and Washoe peoples. These Tribes have lived here for millennia and live here still.

We acknowledge and mourn the painful history of genocide and the devastation of lands and waters irreversibly altered. We are grateful for opportunities to partner with the Tribes to create a shared vision and rebalance our relationship to this place.

- Continued staff-wide introductory training on JEDI concepts.
- Continued SYRCL's monthly ongoing contributions to the California Heritage Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP's) Reciprocity Program.
- Provided Spanish language outreach material and recruited Spanish-speaking River Captains and volunteer River Ambassadors to staff summer outreach booths.
- Attended the 2nd annual Sierra Nevada Tribal Summit where we listened and learned from members and knowledge bearers of tribes throughout the Sierra Nevada region, as well as engaged in conversations around protecting cultural ecologies and the challenges and opportunities facing the people of the Sierra Nevada.
- Collaborated with Nevada County Family Resource Center Las Promotoras to provide a 1-hour Wild & Scenic film program for Nevada County families to engage with our local Latino community. The program was hosted at Bell Hill Academy and showed family-friendly films in English and Spanish. This event engaged around 30 parents and children.
- Along with 42 other community partners, we attended the 3rd annual Latino Family Festival of Nevada County in September. At this very vibrant, joyful family event, we brought SYRCL's message to approximately 350 visiting adults and children, of whom approximately 40% only spoke Spanish. This was our first time attending.
- Participated in the "Climate Smart & Culturally Sustaining Co-Stewardship of Quaking Aspen Workshop" an event focused on sustaining relationship between forests and people while promoting forest resilience through the lens of developing trust and consent for future collaboration among tribal and non-tribal participants.
- Through SYRCL's Wild & Scenic Film Festival, continued to amplify voices often marginalized by traditional media. This included curating film programming that highlighted stories from a diverse array of locations and cultures from around the globe, as well as non-film programming.
- Continued our partnership with Earthwatch Institute's Girls in Science Program and brought 13 students from the greater Los Angeles area, Bay Area, and Central Valley to work with SYRCL staff on data collection, which supports meadow restoration projects.
- Completed SYRCL's Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee Charter. This Charter supports SYRCL's mission as we envision justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion as core values and key principles infusing SYRCL's policies, procedures, personnel, programs, and projects moving forward.



# FINANCIALS

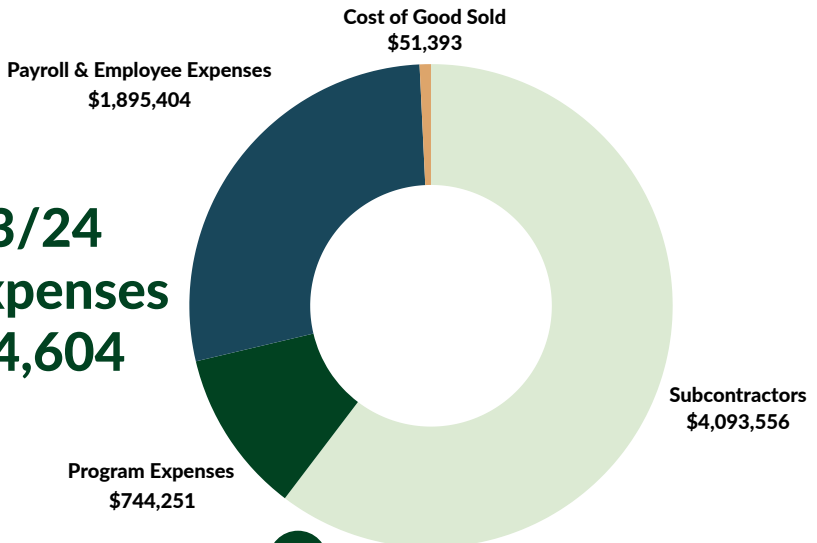


SYRCL has a diversified funding stream composed of unrestricted contributions, memberships, donations, bequests, program service revenue, sponsorships, special event ticketing, donated goods and services, and grants from foundations, corporations, as well as local, state, and federal agencies.

**SYRCL also secured \$5,812,6787 in state and federal grants to support restoration and monitoring**

**FY 23/24  
Total Income  
\$7,412,865**

**FY 23/24  
Total Expenses  
\$6,784,604**



The incredible results detailed in this impact report were achievable because of our community. Gifts at all levels from individuals and local businesses were leveraged into significant wins for our watershed and advanced long-term initiatives which will help us confront climate change and create a sustainable water future.

SYRCL has been very successful in partnering with a variety of agencies to secure grant funding for our large-scale restoration projects. In addition to supporting our restoration, outreach, education, and advocacy, this grant funding contributes to the development of a local restoration economy by creating sustainable jobs which help protect our river, meadows, and forests.





# THANK YOU FOUNDATIONS

- Alan K and Cledith M Jennings Foundation
- Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation
- Bella Vista Foundation
- California State Parks Foundation
- Earthwatch
- Hattie, Harley & Anna Robinson Foundation
- Hydropower Reform Coalition – Hewlett Foundation
- Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona
- The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment
- The Latrobe Fund
- Marin Community Foundation
- Martis Fund
- National Environmental Education Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Forest Foundation
- NIA Community Foundation
- Paul Bechtner Foundation
- Resources Legacy Fund
- The San Francisco Foundation
- Sierra Gold Parks Foundation
- Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
- Teichert Foundation
- Truckee Donner Land Trust
- William & Nancy Lifland Fund – Princeton Area Community Foundation

# THANK YOU AGENCIES

- California Coastal Commission
- California Department of Conservation
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Water Resources
- Nevada County
- Placer County
- Sierra Meadows Partnership via WCB Block Grant
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- Wildlife Conservation Board
- Yuba Water Agency

And all our  
sponsors,  
members,  
and  
donors





# PLANNED GIVING

## Create a Lasting Impact for the Yuba Watershed

Your legacy matters. By including SYRCL in your will or estate plan, you're making a powerful statement of support for the Yuba River. This enduring commitment ensures that the watershed you cherish remains protected for generations to come.

**Legacy Gifts** — These extraordinary contributions are made through wills, trusts, IRAs, retirement plans, and life insurance. The best part? They do not affect your current finances. And legacy gifts sustain SYRCL's vital work over the long term.

**Tax Benefits** — Depending on your unique circumstances, a legacy gift may also offer tax advantages. We recommend consulting a tax professional to explore these potential benefits.

**Free Resource for Bequests & Trusts** — As we work together for the future Yuba Watershed, we invite you to plan for your own future through our partnership with FreeWill. Using their online estate planning tool, you can create a will or revocable living trust for free. They also make it easy to create other important estate planning documents so you are prepared for your future. FreeWill can also be paired with an attorney for more complex needs. Please visit: <https://www.freewill.com/yubariver>.

As weather patterns shift and political winds change, the Yuba River will continue to face ongoing threats. Your legacy gift becomes a beacon of hope, an extremely personal and generous safeguard for the Yuba's future.

Remember, planning your legacy does not have to be daunting. It is a beautiful way to leave a positive impact for the river, forest, meadows, and streams that you love. It will also save your family stress and complications by giving exact instructions on how to handle your estate.

If you have included SYRCL in your will or trust, please let us know so we may thank you.

Questions:

Contact Julie Pokrandt, Development Director:  
[julie@yubariver.org](mailto:julie@yubariver.org) or (530) 265-5961 x214

For more information, visit <https://yubariver.org/unite/donate>







South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)

313 Railroad Avenue

Nevada City, CA 95959

(530) 265-5961 | [www.YubaRiver.org](http://www.YubaRiver.org)

Tax ID: 68-0171371

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Transparency  
2024

**Candid.**