



**EASTERN SIERRA
AVALANCHE CENTER**



2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

www.esavalanche.org

office@esavalanche.org

PO Box 1675
Mammoth Lakes, CA
93546

ABOUT ESAC

The mission of the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center is to inform and educate the public on avalanche conditions in the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains of California.

Staff

Steve Mace	Director of Operations
Clancy Nelson	Lead Forecaster
Greg Cunningham	Forecaster
Sean Smollen	Forecaster
Barb Bemis	Administrative Manager

Board

Nate Greenberg - President
Gabe Taylor - Vice President
Allan Pietrasanta - Secretary
Christy McIntire - Treasurer
Forrest Cross - Director
Dave Sheek - Director
Scott Quirsfeld - Director

Advisory Board

Michelle Mather
Ann Piersall

LETTER FROM DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Affectionately dubbed the “Winter of Weird” by the forecast team, the 2025/26 winter season left many backcountry enthusiasts with a feeling of whiplash. The season kicked off in earnest around the Christmas holiday with a storm system that brought over 60 inches to the range over the course of three days and allowed us to issue our first daily products. Active weather continued through the first week of January before we settled into our first extended dry period of the season. This trend seemed to define the season. Large Sierra storm events brought multiple feet of snow at a time and were followed by extended periods of dry weather and unseasonably warm temperatures. While we often found ourselves longing for cooler temps and more active weather, it could have been much worse. The Eastern Sierra still managed to hit 100% of seasonal snowfall, while much of the west experienced record-low snow years.

I want to take a minute to offer a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to document and share their field observations with us throughout the season. These reports are invaluable for the ESAC team and our users. Your reports help us evaluate the day's avalanche danger and make our forecasts more accurate, and your commitment to information sharing helped our team navigate the quickly changing conditions that dominated this season.

As a non-profit avalanche center, ESAC would not be able to operate without the dedicated staff and board, supporting partners, and driven community members. Your support is at the heart of our operation and has directly helped thousands of people to travel more safely in the mountains. We'd like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone involved and let you know that we are already preparing for another successful season. We look forward to seeing you in the mountains!

Steve Mace, Director of Operations

HIGHLIGHTS

116

Daily
Forecasts

472

Observations

89

Public/
Professional
Observers

Average User Duration

4 minutes higher
than the average
user at 2:30

6:30+

Mammoth
and Bishop

Website Events

In the 25-26
season

1.25+
Million

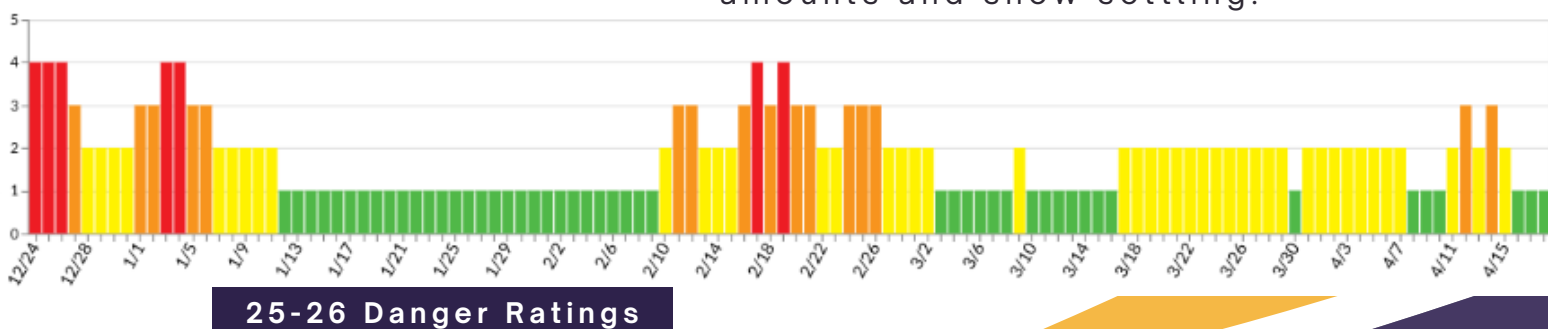


Snow Stakes

New to the system this year were snow stakes to gather extra data. These were placed in the field with cameras to measure snowfall amounts and snow settling.

Top User Cities

1. Los Angeles
2. San Jose
3. Mammoth Lakes



25-26 Danger Ratings

EVENTS & COMMUNITY

We had a great time with the community this past year at various events. Thank you to our volunteers for helping, for those who stopped by to say hi, and for sharing the stoke!



November
ESSAW &
Kickoff



December
Education Night



January
Education Night



February
Education Night &
Arc'Teryx Academy



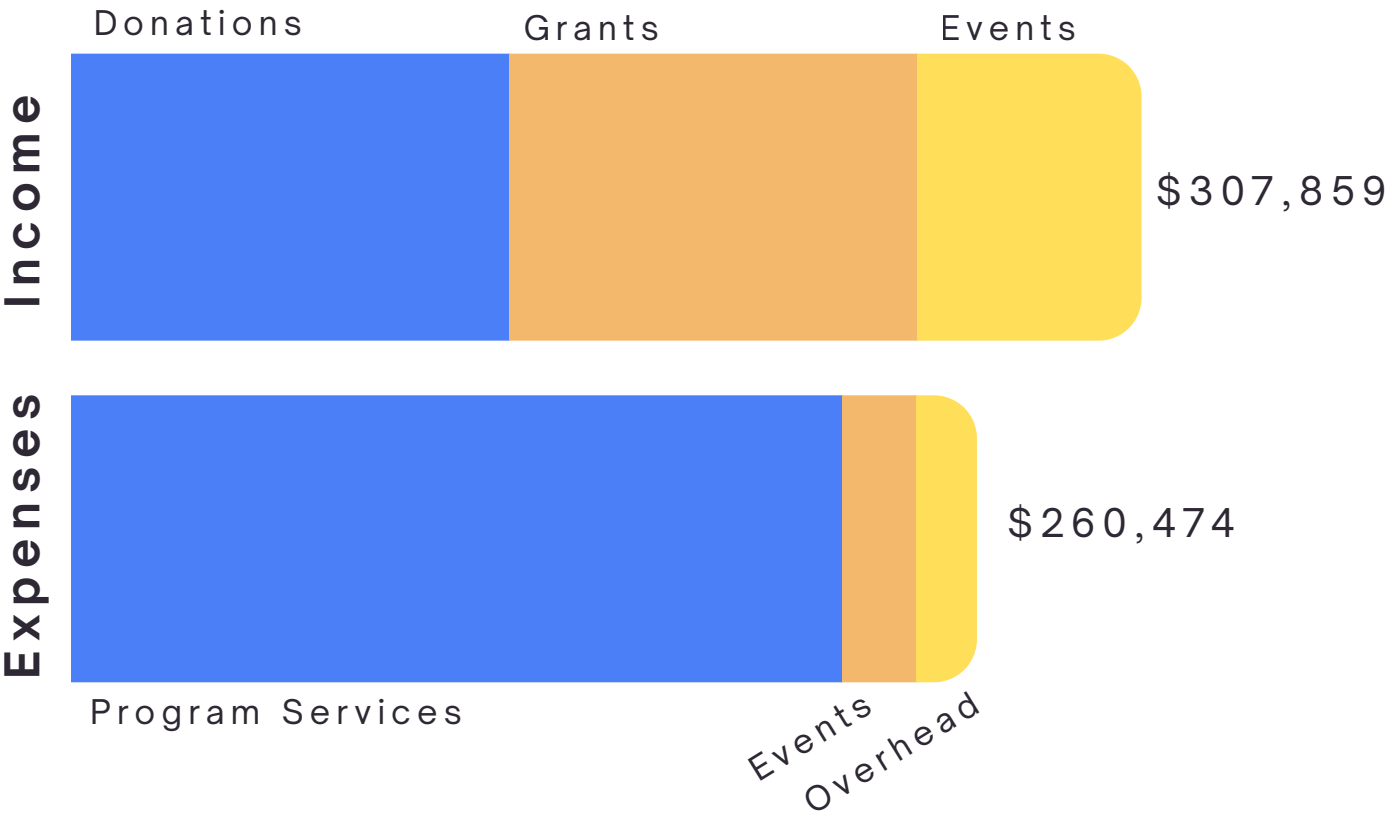
March
Education Night

April
Bingo



BUDGET

2025-2026 Income & Expenses



For comparison - 2024-2025:
Income - \$228,558 | Expenses - \$218,223

Looking Forward

ESSAW Kickoff Weekend Nov 13 & 14 - After breaking attendance records last year at ESSAW and the Kickoff, we are planning an expanded and exciting weekend of events. ESSAW will continue to occur in the morning with the Kickoff fundraiser in the evening. We're also adding events on Friday evening. More details to come over the next few months!

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all of our donors, sponsors, and supporters. You make it possible for us to provide avalanche information and resources to the public at no charge. We couldn't do it without your support!

Key Sponsors



**MORE THAN A BAR, BETTER
THAN AN ENERGY DRINK.**

THANK YOU

Sustaining Sponsors

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- International Alpine Guides
- Looney Bean Bishop
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- Sierra Mountain Guides
- Wolverine Publishing

Grants

- County of Inyo
- Measure U - Town of Mammoth Lakes
- CA State Parks OHV
- SCE
- American Avalanche Association