



Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)
Monday December 4, 2023 – 3:30 PM

Via ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88006162291?pwd=K2Y3REdyZkpTdHBYSiROVjF3MzZ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 880 0616 2291 **Passcode:** 495260

Items Highlighted in Yellow are attached to the agenda. Please also review the meeting presentation.

Attendees: John Wentworth, Rita Keil, Bill Young, Julie Faber, Patrick Johnston, John Urdi, Janet Hatfield, Taro Pusina, Emily Bryant, Andrew Mulford, Lawson Reif, Dan Holler, David Griffith, Sintia KawasakiOYee, John Dayberry, Joe Meyer, Deston Dishion, Ben Downard, Philip Gross, Kimberly Anaclerio, Darlene Shuetz, Tahoe Backcountry Alliance, Adam Barnett, Matt Driscoll, James Rusk, Elaine Kabala, Aaron Wilcher, Cindy Duriscoe, Tim Bevins, Amanda Carlson, Magnolia Barra, AK, Danna Stroud, James Powell, Marcella Rose, Brian Hansen, Elizabeth Redman Clevleand, Bob Gardner, Bethanie DeRose, JT Chevallier, Sherry Reckler, Nichole Andler, Jen Roeser, 1 phone caller

43 participants

Introductions

- Laura Beardsley: Executive Director of the Whitebark Institute.

Regional Strategic Tourism Initiatives

- John Urdi encourages everyone to reach out to Bethanie DeRose (bethanie.derose@jll.com).
- Visit California and JLL will be holding focus groups for the next week about recreation and tourism concerns in our region. Contact Bethanie to request a meeting if the dates this week don't work for you.

California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience

- MLTPA and Danna Stroud are talking to CAL FIRE tomorrow about implementation of the Joint Strategy.

Upcoming Events

CORP Webinar: The Future of an Office of Outdoor Recreation in California

- CORP will host this webinar on December 14.
- <https://mailchi.mp/f9b0bcd56f36/register-now-the-future-of-an-office-of-outdoor-recreation-webinar?e=5c25ded36d>

Buttermilk Infrastructure & Recreation Planning Initiative - Public Mtg #3

- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/buttermilk-infrastructure-recreation-planning-initiative-public-mtg-3-tickets-763630889547?aff=oddtcreator>
- December 14.

California Jobs First* HRTC - December 15, 2023



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- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeodHcnAi7Xlh98QTaKQt24n4W0Szxu6nJ4mlROJM_5Sk140Q/viewform

Requesting Input: Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP) DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FROM NOVEMBER 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 18, 2023

- <https://www.whitebarkinstitute.org/draft-ea>
- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/invo/?project=61827>
- Janet Hatfield: Constructive comments about what people do or do not like this project are very helpful.

National Park Service and USDA Forest Service seek public input on proposed guidance for managing climbing

- <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/nps-usfs-proposed-climbing-guidance-public-input.htm>

Updates on Regional Recreation Projects

John Dayberry

- Irvin Jim will visit in December, representing the Inter-Tribal Council of California. He'll be focused on teaching Traditional Ecological Knowledge to children with the goal of building informed native stewards.
- johndayberry@gmail.com

Alpine County, JT Chevallier

- Alpine County continues to think about the future of Turtle Rock Park.
- JT is working on an economic analysis of anglers in Alpine County.
- The Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) project is underway.
- Two electric vehicle charger locations are being developed.
- The "Are You Alpine?" marketing partnership campaign should be rolled out early next year.
- They're creating a visitor kiosk using wood salvaged from the Tamarack Fire near Mad Dog Café.
- They're preparing to host their landmark events next summer.

Alpine Trails Association, Bill Young

- The Alpine Trails Association is finishing up trail work in the Hope Valley.



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- They worked on Thornburg and Charity Valley trails.
- They're working on restoring a disc golf course at Turtle Rock Park that burned in the fire. It should be built back better.

Mono County, Marcella Rose

- The county worked with the BLM to improve the slope of the trail at Travertine Hot Springs. It is now more ABA-accessible.
- The Camp Like a Pro campaign was great this year for delivering messaging about closures and safety and providing information in Spanish. Mono County is working with MLTPA and Caltrans to put the Camp Like a Pro messaging in rest stops.
- The H-T NF will make Buckeye Rd a seasonal closure. The county is installing a gate and kiosks.
- The trail crew improved 1.5 miles of trail at Saddlebag Lake.
- The trail stewards collected 563+ data points on dispersed camping and road conditions.
- They did landscaping, trail work, and small repairs at many sites around the county.
- Marcella is meeting with CSA1 on opportunities for connector trails from Lower Rock Creek to Tom's Place and possibly beyond.
- Mono County put up temporary signage about nearby bathrooms and responsible fall color viewing.
- They hosted an Eastern Sierra Recreation Meet and Greet to help recreation staff from multiple agencies get to know each other and coordinate on messaging.

Town of Mammoth Lakes, Andrew Mulford

- The Town and Mono County made significant repairs to the Lower Rock Creek trail.
- The trail crew proposed a reroute of the Mammoth Rock trail to the Inyo National Forest.
- The archeological survey work for the Sherwins Area Recreation Planning project (SHARP) has been devolved to the Inyo NF.
- The Inyo NF approved the design of the Sherwins trailhead. Mammoth Lakes Recreation has funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Construction on the trailhead should begin next summer.

Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative, Tim Bevins

- The BIRPI effort has gathered public input at several in person meetings and online comment opportunities.



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- A key theme was that this study area needs an entity that can convene all of the involved management groups and user types and serve as a point of contact and acting body.
- There will be a last public meeting on December 14 at 5:30 P.M.

Towns to Trails, Tim Bevins

- The Alta and MLTPA teams spent the last year gathering public comments and analyzing GIS data. They will spend the next year developing alignments and ground truthing options.

Campground Improvements, John Wentworth

- The Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative sought funding to develop a business plan for campground improvements.
- Now MLTPA, the Inyo National Forest, and the ESCOG are working to generate engineering drawings for improvements to two campground areas in Lee Vining and Independence.

Partner Updates

Alpine County, David Griffith

- David found this session helpful. It was focused on the Eastern Sierra.

Alpine Trails Association, Bill Young

- Shout-out to the H-T NF for a really successful reroute they did.

Caltrans, Ben Downard

- Caltrans is happy to have a new, giant snowblower.
- Closed road passes will no longer be accepted. They were causing too many traffic incidents.

City of Bishop, Deston Dishion

- The Christmas parade was a hit.

Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, Brian Hansen

- The Carson District will fill the deputy district ranger position in the spring.
- Brian continues to try to fill seven recreation positions.

Inyo National Forest, Adam Barnett



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- Public comments are being accepted on a joint USFS-BLM wild horse gathering initiative.
- Vista Recreation will manage Inyo National Forest campgrounds. There will be funding available for campground construction.
- Wild horse gather EA comments due 12/7. <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2026934/510>

Inyo National Forest, Taro Pusina

- Taro is the Mt. Whitney district ranger. He is the acting White Mountain district ranger. He has substantial experience with wildfire management.

Yosemite National Park, Joe Meyer

- Yosemite NP will have reservations for the weekends of Horsetail Falls viewing:
<https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/horsetailfall.htm>

Death Valley National Park, Nichole Andler

- North Saline Valley to Palm Springs is accessible. They continue to make road repairs.
- The road to Eureka Dunes is open.
- Scotty's Castle Tours will restart next Sunday.

Manzanar NHS, Nichole Andler

- The superintendent position is open to government employees.

Town of Mammoth Lakes, Lawson Reif

- The Community Recreation Center and Ice Rink is open.
- Town Council will consider an enforcement ordinance about e-bikes this week.
- The Mammoth Lakes Basin is closed to cars.

California Jobs First (CERF), Magnolia Barra

- The Sierra Business Council turned in their application for the catalyst program.

ESCOG, Elaine Kabala

- The next meeting is December 14 at 8:30 AM. They will have a ribbon cutting for the toilet in the Buttermilks at 11 AM (?).