

ESSRP Meeting Notes | 3/6/2022

John Wentworth, Chris Smallcomb, Steve Baule, Stacy Corless, Elaine Kabala, Patrick Johnston, Tim Bevins, Kristy Williams, Janet Hatfield, Lawson Reif, Joe Meyer, Brenda Ling, Nichole Andler, Lynda Salcido, Adam Barnett, Fred Wong, Stephanie Heller, Jen Roeser, Deston Dishion, Ben Downard, Chris Mason, JT Chevallier, Dan Holler (partial list)

Introductions

- Jill Tognazzini, Caltrans District 9, Project Manager
- Matthew Weintraub, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation, Deputy Administrator
- Justin Kooyman, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Acting Director of Trail Operations
- Kitty Weissman, Blue Forest Conservation, Regional Strategy & Utilities Manager
- Chris Smallcomb, NOAA/NWS Reno, Meteorologist in Charge

NWS Presentation, Chris Smallcomb

- chris.smallcomb@noaa.gov
- Two to three times the normal snowpack for early March. More low elevation snowpack than normal. Colder than usual.
- Bishop has received double the annual average precipitation. Third wettest water year to date. January 9th was the fifth wettest day on record with 3.02".
- The atmospheric river is returning on Friday & Saturday almost everywhere in California. It will be a warmer storm than usual. The existing snowpack will soak up much of the rainfall. There will be flooding concerns since the usual drainage areas are blocked.
- People should try to clear as much snow from their roofs as possible.
- Mammoth Lakes and Wrightwood will experience rain.
- Hwy 395 and the Mammoth Mountain summit will have heavy winds.
- The storm door is likely to stay open for a good portion of the month of March.
- The summer forecast is leaning towards above average temperatures and equal chances of above or below average precipitation. There may be strong creek flows and flooding along mountain roadways this summer from April to July, especially on rainy days.
- Mountain fire activity is normally limited following big snow winters, at least in size. Lower elevation Great Basin areas (along Hwys 395 and 6) can be more active due to increased fine fuels (grasses), but this isn't guaranteed. Fire season is likely to start later than normal.

Situational Awareness

Emergencies

- The Town of Mammoth Lakes has declared a state of emergency.
- Representative Kiley is trying to activate federal support.
- Mammoth Mountain had a power outage that caused a shutdown and traffic problems.
- Yosemite broke a snow record. It is closed indefinitely.
- This is about climate change and resilience.

Van Life & EVs

- We continue to think about the challenges and interested in people living and staying in their vehicles.
- More parties are getting into the EV charging game. They're thinking about how to occupy and support people while they wait for their vehicles to charge.

Grants

- There are funding opportunities coming up from the state and federal government, many of them focused on climate resilience.

California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

- The state and U.S. Forest Service published Regional Resource Kits for the Sierra Nevada and Southern California.
- Google staff have created a tool for the Task Force called Planscape. John is working to integrate community and recreation infrastructure into the tool.
- Janet Hatfield, Stacy Corless, and Lesley Yen attended the Watershed Improvement Program summit in Sacramento on March 1. Secretary Crowfoot featured their work.
- There was great alignment with the other presentations, like the one from Greg Williams with Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship.
- California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience will be published this week.

California Trails & Greenways Conference

- Coming up on March 28th-30th in Palm Springs.

Tahoe

- Many news articles have come out expressing frustration with traffic in Lake Tahoe. DMOs continue to invite people to visit.
- Mammoth Lakes experienced intense traffic last weekend.
- We have the opportunity to learn from the challenges in Lake Tahoe.

Community Economic Resiliency Fund / Sierra Business Council, Stacy Corless

- SBC received their contract from the state last week.
- They are still accepting applications to the High Road Transition Council.
- Here's the link for more information about CERF and the application to serve on a committee, as well as a link to sign up for CERF updates: <https://www.sierrabusiness.org/archives/cerf/>

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Elaine Kabala

- Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties have been developing a federal economic strategy for a few months. It's a 30,000-ft view into the region's economy.
- The lead consultants will begin stakeholder engagement soon. They will meet with community leadership to discuss regional strengths and challenges. There will be community and regional leadership meetings April 24-26.
- Having a CEDS will make the region eligible for certain federal funding.

ESSRP Tribal Engagement

- The tribal subcommittee is continuing its outreach.

ESSRP MOU

- John and Patrick Johnston need to meet before they can circulate the MOU.

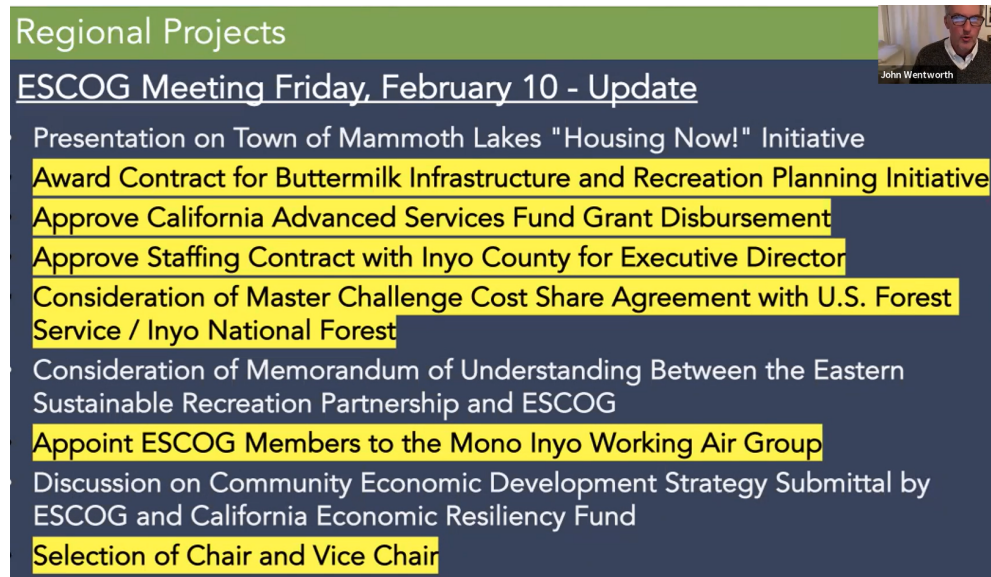
Towns to Trails, Tim Bevins and Kristy Williams

- This is a tri-county plan to connect towns to one another and to backcountry trails.
- In January through March, the project team has been gathering governing documents, building a website, making maps, and developing a logo and blaze.
- In April to June, the project team will have kick off, county, and agency meetings. The first kick off meeting will be April 10 for land managers and tribal representatives. We'll invite the public to county-specific meetings.
- The project team will continue to engage at the ESSRP meetings.
- We're hopeful to have the April 10 meeting in person, but we're not sure if that can happen.

ESCCRP, Janet Hatfield

- The donut boundaries are changing. They've extended by a couple acres to the north and removed some land from the center.
- They'll continue treating acres this summer as snowmelt allows.
- There is a wood utilization grant opportunity from the USFS. Janet has been working with Mono County and TOML on pre-permitting for a potential biomass facility co-located with ORMAT.

ESCOG Meeting Update, John Wentworth and Elaine Kabala



Regional Projects

ESCOG Meeting Friday, February 10 - Update

- Presentation on Town of Mammoth Lakes "Housing Now!" Initiative
- Award Contract for Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative
- Approve California Advanced Services Fund Grant Disbursement
- Approve Staffing Contract with Inyo County for Executive Director
- Consideration of Master Challenge Cost Share Agreement with U.S. Forest Service / Inyo National Forest
- Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding Between the Eastern Sustainable Recreation Partnership and ESCOG
- Appoint ESCOG Members to the Mono Inyo Working Air Group
- Discussion on Community Economic Development Strategy Submittal by ESCOG and California Economic Resiliency Fund
- Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

- Supervisor Roeser will hold a tentative town hall on March 15 about BIRPI.

Mono County, John Wentworth

- There's a meeting this week on Wednesday about Camp Like a Pro.

IFNF Campgrounds Project

- SNC has indicated they would like to see a grant application to fund capacity for design and engineering of three campground areas in Lee Vining Canyon, Shady Rest, and Independence Canyon.

Agency Updates

Town of Mammoth Lakes, Lawson Reif

- Town of Mammoth Lakes declared a state of emergency. Resources are on the way to assist with the upcoming storm.
- Reds Meadow Road discussions are ongoing.
- They are working on grooming in the Sherwins and at Shady Rest but it's been difficult.
- The USFS is almost done with their communication plan for Reds Meadow Rd.
- Work on Reds Meadow Rd may commence this spring. They have permission to work overnight until 11am.
- Sherwins Area Trails environmental analysis continues.

Devils Postpile NM, Patrick Johnston

- They haven't been able to access the park to assess damage.
- They are hiring a supervisory facility operations specialist.
 - <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/709269700/print>

Yosemite National Park, Joe Meyer

- The park is closed with no announced reopening date.
- They are expecting 5+ inches of precipitation over the weekend.
- Rock and treefall on roads are a big concern.

Manzanar NHS, Brenda Ling

- They were closed for three days due to visibility and icing problems.
- Admin asst job vacancy at MANZ: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/709346600>
- The Manzanar Pilgrimage is scheduled for April 29, depending on weather.

Death Valley National Park, Nichole Andler

- The Saline Valley is snowed in.
- The staff stationed in Lone Pine will be there for another month and a half doing interpretive programs. The night sky program has been very popular.

Mono County, Lynda Salcido

- Mono County has had an emergency declaration since January. The Governor's declaration of emergency will help provide more resources.

- The avalanches along Mono Lake shut off power to Mono City and everywhere north of Lee Vining. Power has been restored to Mono City and Bridgeport. The avalanches isolated Mono City from Bridgeport and Hawthorne.
- People and businesses are coping with snow on roofs.
- They restored power in Mono City by activating hydropower in Lundy.
- Caltrans provided an additional 20 snow plows.

Inyo National Forest

Adam Barnett

- They submitted a grant application for OHV support.
- Summer staffing is a struggle. They are working with the American Conservation Experience to hire.
 - Inyo NF visitor services positions with American Conservation Experience
<https://usaconservation.applicantpool.com/jobs/930600.html>

Fred Wong

- There's a possibility that Minaret Vista will not be staffed this summer.
- ESIA had to close the Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center this week through March 8 because they were losing money. The Inyo NF would consider providing staffing during the winter when the shop is slower.

Stephanie Heller

- The storm and avalanche along Mono Lake have impacted Stephanie's staff.

Inyo County, Jen Roeser

- Thank you to Caltrans, SCE, and LADWP for maintaining roads and helping stranded communities.
- Inyo County residents are excited to see Inyo NF trailheads get renovated with GAOA funds.
- South Lake may lose public transit from ESTA.

City of Bishop, Deston Dishion

- Bishop is facing the potential loss of EMS service.
- Nora Gamino will host a couple town halls this week about the East Line Street Bridge and the Whitney Alley project.

Caltrans, Ben Downard

- They are mobilizing extra equipment to restore access to stranded communities in Mono County.
- Follow Caltrans on Twitter, Facebook, and QuickMap for updates.
- They are doing a multi-county transportation gap analysis.
- Park & Rides or ride shares could help with trailhead parking problems. There is ample parking in Bishop, like at the Kmart/Vons lot.

Bureau of Land Management, Chris Mason

- Sherri is working on hiring of seasonal staff. One recreation seasonal person will be stationed in Mammoth.
- They continue to work on development projects in the Alabama Hills.

Alpine County, JT Chevallier

- The Resource Advisory Committee met and recommended some projects.
- They received \$10,000 to extend the Camp Like a Prop program to Alpine County.
- They released an RFP for two charging stations in Bear Valley and Markleeville. They're looking at it as an economic development strategy.
- There are lessons to be learned from Lake Tahoe. Transportation is key. Getting people out of cars is key.