

ESSRP Meeting | 5/1/2023

John Wentworth, Rita Keil, Philip Gross, AK, Dan Holler, James Rusk, Jeff Griffiths, Jennifer Crittenden, Andre Miller, Bob Gardner, Brenda Ling, Chris Bubser, Danna Stroud, David Griffith, Elaine Kabala, Elsa Jimenez, (iPhone), James Powell, Janet Hatfield, John Dayberry, John Pinckney, John Urdi, JT Chevallier, Kim Anaclerio, Kristy Williams, Lesley Yen, Lynda Salcido, Matt Driscoll, Matt Paruolo, Nichole Andler, Rebecca Carr Wong, Rick Kattelmann, Sherry Reckler, Stacy Corless, Stuart Brown, Tim Bevins, Liz (City of Berkeley), Fred Wong, Crystal Medhurst

38 Participants

Welcome

- Philip Gross, Assistant Field Manager of the BLM Bishop Field Office

Tribal Outreach & ESSRP MOU

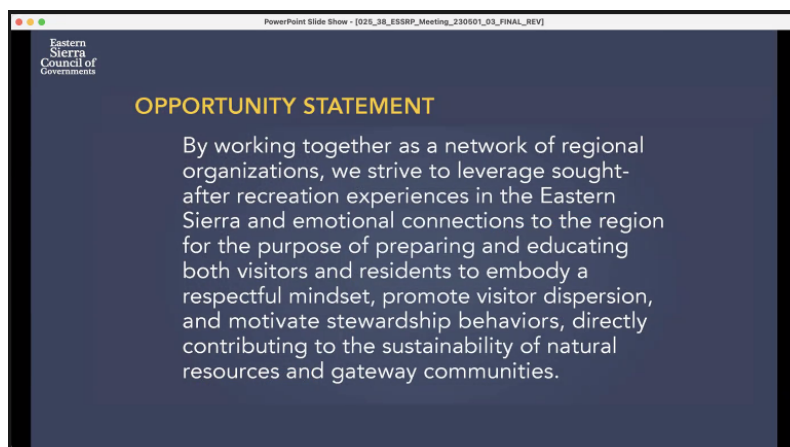
- John: We will keep working on tribal outreach and the ESSRP MOU as the snow melts.
- John Dayberry met with the H-T NF Tribal Relations Supervisor last weekend. He briefed her on the ESSRP and invited her to join us.

Weather Awareness

- The Reno NWS office will discuss the near-term forecast on Wednesday. They're also tracking river levels and runoff.
- LADWP's Eastern Sierra website has good information about recreation closures.

Recreation Coordination

- It's critical that our organizations coordinate with each other when we receive funding to work on similar programs.
- It's time to start thinking about standing up the Visitor Connection Package as a unifying voice for the region. This program is about connecting with existing visitors about our culture, values, and stewardship.
- Visitors are coming to see the historic snowfall. This drives employment and tax revenue. It's our greatest strength and our greatest challenge.



- MLTPA will put out a call to gather the initial VCP group. However, everyone is welcome. Email John for more details.
- This is urgent because hikers will start arriving soon.

State Updates

- John attended a 30x30 networking event where he gave a presentation on climate change and recreation.
- The state is moving forward with programs on Outdoors for All, The Ultimate Playground, and 30x30. CalRec Vision can guide the coordination of sustainable recreation.
- Get in touch with Rita if you would like to participate in the Recreate Responsibly California meetings: ritakeil@mltpa.org

CERF Update, Stacy Corless

- The Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) process is underway with the Sierra Business Council as its convener.
- They could use more representation from Alpine and the region's western counties on the High Road Transition Collaborative.
 - JT Chevallier: I will work on the Alpine County reps for CERF.
- Stacy will invite the Eastern Sierra Navigator to join these meetings.

CEDS Update, Elaine Kabala

- The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a document the ESCOG is producing with the federal Economic Development Agency using funding from RCRC.
- In the initial meetings, strong regional alignments have emerged.
- Elaine will launch a community survey on May 12.

ESCOG Update, Elaine Kabala

- ESCOG is discussing inviting Alpine County to join the JPA.
- ESCOG launched a new website with information about meetings and projects.
- ESCOG will kick off the Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative (BIRPI) soon.
- The first part of the BIRPI is to bring a pit toilet to the bouldering area. They'll see if this can be done later in the summer.

Towns to Trails Plan, Tim Bevins

- The planning team has created a map of existing trails that allow a user to travel at least 50+ miles.
- We plan to have a public kick off meeting.

Collaborative Planning

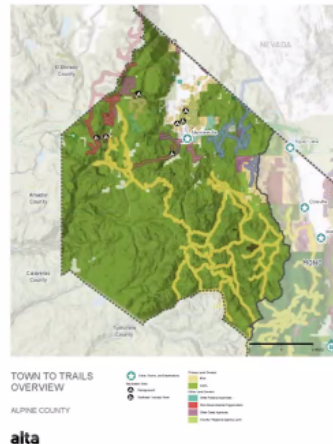
April – June 2023

- Team and Partnership Establishment
- Stakeholder Kickoff
- Data Collection/Verification

July – December 2023

- Existing Conditions
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
- Potential Gap Closures
- Pilot Projects

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- We'll start doing a gap analysis and ground truthing.

Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP), Janet Hatfield

- The ESCCRP issued its quarterly newsletter for the spring:
https://www.eswildfirealliance.org/files/ugd/eb1217_113033848b0a4931bc21bc9d6c53f2af.pdf
- The SNC voted to award \$3.8 million to the ESCCRP.
- ESCCRP will begin training educators about fire ecology.
- ORMAT is a willing partner for co-location of a biomass facility.

Partner Updates

National Park Service

Manzanar NHS, Brenda Ling

- About 1500 people attended the annual pilgrimage. There was more age diversity in the crowd than in past years.

Death Valley NP, Nichole Andler

- Access to Saline Valley is open but travel conditions are difficult.

Devils Postpile NM, Rebecca Carr Wong

- Still buried, but the snows are melting.
- They hope to talk to the FHWA road contractor in the next two weeks.

Mono County

Bob Gardner

- They're working on their annual budget.
- Attendance for the fishing opener was good, despite the snow levels.

- There was a large infestation of wild horses at Mono Lake. They'll have a poop party this weekend to clean poop off trails.

Lynda Salcido

- Mono County is recruiting a permanent CAO and a housing opportunity director.
- There was a pontoon boat out on Convict Lake, with about a 10-foot hole in the lake.

Marcella Rose

- Mono County Recreation is working with Inyo County and other agency partners to track spring runoff and campground openings.
- The Bridgeport Reservoir was fully open for the fish opener.
- For County - Lundy Lake campground is still under 3-4 ft of snow!

Inyo National Forest

Lesley Yen

- Lower elevation roads and areas have been impacted by flooding.
- The road going up to Coyote Plateau and other roads are impassable. These are serious safety hazards for the public.
- Grant Lake is full for the first time in several years.
- They are considering emergency contracts they can assume this late in the fiscal year to repair roads.
- The OHV commission reached out to ask about help they can provide for repairing OHV roads.
- They won't open campgrounds until they're certain that people won't get flooded or entrapped.
- They are also preparing for a fire season. The Inyo NF tries to coordinate its fire restrictions with the BLM and H-T NF, but the BLM will have additional grass fire concerns.
- Their attempts to do seasonal hiring are not going well. They're trying to convert seasonal positions into permanent ones. They'll have to reduce hours at visitor centers.

Fred Wong

- There will be closures and delays this summer to access Reds Meadow.
- They cancelled Lakes Basin campground reservations through Memorial Day at least.
- They delayed wood cutting season until at least June 1.

Inyo County, Jeff Griffiths

- The wildflowers are wonderful.
- They are extremely worried about swift water incidents. Inyo County does not have a swift water rescue team.

Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, Brian Hansen

- Megan Muhloney (district ranger) and Nate Bech (recreation officer) accepted other positions. They will hopefully fill their positions with acting details.

Inyo County, John Pinckney

- There is a major reroute on Hwy 395 around Olancho. It is expected to conclude on Friday, May 5.

BLM Bishop, Philip Gross

- Four out of their five campgrounds are open. Crowley Lake is the only closed campground.
- Travertine Hot Springs is accessible.
- Many roads are inaccessible.
- Rattlesnakes are active.

Alpine County

JT Chevallier

- On Arbor Day, they got the community to Turtle Rock Park for a tree planting and planning initiative. The park is where the Tamarack Fire started.

David Griffith

- The broadband design plan is underway.
- David attended a symposium about biomass facilities.

LADWP, Elsa Jimenez

- They continue to prepare the hotspots that might lead to flooding, especially on roadways.
- They're concerned about water rescues. A fire and law enforcement team cautioned a group that was ice fishing on Crowley Lake.

SCE, Matt Paruolo

- SCE anticipates peak runoff between June and August. They will be mitigating flooding by hardening their structures and delaying construction.