

ESSRP Meeting Notes | 6/5/2023

Participants: 37

John Wentworth, Rita Keil, Jen Roeser, Lynda Salcido, Patrick Johnston, Bob Gardner, Rick Kattelman, Fred Wong, Sintia Kawasaki-Yee, Andrew Mulford, Ben Downard, AK, John Urdi, Melyssa Navis, Liz Grans, Brenda, James Powell, Kristy Williams, Nichole Andler, Matt Driscoll, Danna Stroud, Brian Hansen, Karen Schwartz, Stuart Brown, Stacy Corless, James Rusk, Cindy Duriscoe, Elaine Kabala, Amanda Carlson, Kitty Weisman, Tim Bevins, Elsa Jimenez, Kim Anaclerio, Janet Hatfield, John Dayberry, JT Chevallier, Kristy Williams, Dan Holler, Rebecca Carr Wong, Philip Gross

Welcome

- Andrew Mulford, Trails Program Manager, Town of Mammoth Lakes
- Nora Campbell, Associate Recreation Planner, USFS Washington Office

Farewell

- Steve Baule, formerly LADWP, now with the Mayor's Office of Energy and Sustainability

Move Next ESSRP Meeting to Monday, July 10

Climate News

- CNRA is starting to address weather whiplash.
- The Eastern Sierra's climate report recommends surveying all of the culverts in the region.
- Caltrans is working to open Tioga Pass.
- The Inyo NF INCIWEB page has photos tracking flooding and road damage.
- Be sure to check in with the Caltrans Facebook page and the LADWP alert page.
- It may be the years when we flip from La Nina to El Nino and back that produce the biggest climate impacts.
- SNARL has been putting on great lectures this spring. They are all posted on the SNARL Youtube channel.

ESSRP MOU

- The draft is ready to go out to all of the agencies for consideration.
- The NPS and David Griffith have reviewed the document.
- We chose an MOU structure because it is the most open agreement type for different agencies and organizations to sign on. The first MCCA had four signatories. We now have ten partners that regularly attend ESSRP meetings.
- On page two there is a lot of language that the USFS requires.
- John and Rita will follow up with each partner.

Visitor Connection Package

- MLTPA is working with the Whitebark Institute to try to stand up the VCP.

Tribal Consultation Sub Committee

- Melyssa Navis: John Dayberry invited Melyssa to this meeting. Melyssa is the tribal relations specialist for the H-T NF. Melyssa's goal is to elevate the tribal voice.
- John Dayberry is glad Melyssa was able to join us today. John is working to develop native youth stewardship programs for Tahoe and the Eastern Sierra.

Federal News & National Updates

- Last week California, Arizona, and Nevada signed a deal to change their management of the Colorado River.
- The USFS is working on a national Reimagine Recreation strategy.
- The BLM is updating the Public Lands Rule. Many advocacy groups have commented on the proposed changes.

State News

- The May Revision to the state budget is in effect.
- There are two proposed bond measures that would bring funding to natural resource, climate resilience, wildfire risk reduction, and Access for All projects.

Outdoors for All

- CNRA published a draft Outdoors for All strategy. They are accepting comments.

Visit California

- Visit California rolled out a new campaign titled "The Ultimate Playground." This will probably result in more visitors to the Eastern Sierra.

CERF Kickoff, Stacy Corless

- Friday, June 16th. They will meet in person in Sonoma and Bishop.
- There is still time to join a working group.
- The state awarded the first round of CERF implementation grants. This region did not receive any, but SBC is learning from the winning projects.

ESCOG News

- A draft of the CEDS document is almost ready for publication.

SNC News, Matt Driscoll

- SNC awarded a \$22.5 million in grant funding at their June 1 board meeting.
- The Eastern Sierra region received two grants: one for campground improvements for MLTPA and one for strategic land conservation between Lee Vining and Tioga Pass, led by the Kutzadika'a tribe.
- Here's the link to the press release: <https://sierranevada.ca.gov/snc-approves-22-5-million-to-build-resilience-boost-recreation-and-conserve-land/>

30x30/Sierra Nevada Alliance

- Everyone should sign up for these emails.

ESCOG

- The next ESOCG meeting is coming up on June 15.

Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative, Tim Bevins

- The plan is getting started. They will have a public meeting shortly. They plan to roll out a public input map where people can point out special areas and concerns.

Towns to Trails, Tim Bevins and Kristy Williams

- James and Tim will be in the Eastern Sierra next week. They will meet with land managers and public officials to talk about existing conditions, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
- Following these meetings, they will engage the public and other government staff. They want to know where there are areas the trail should and shouldn't go.
- Feel free to reach out to Kristy with questions.
- Thursday, June 29 will likely be the public kick off.
- June 2023 Towns to Trails Meetings
 - Monday, June 12, 9:00-11:00AM Mono County Stakeholder Meeting - To Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/646620387987> (In Person Meeting, Bishop)
 - Wednesday, June 14, 8:30-10:30AM Inyo County Stakeholder Meeting- To Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/648244265047> (In Person Meeting, Mammoth Lakes)
 - Thursday, June 22, 9:00-11:00AM Alpine County Stakeholder Meeting - Registration Coming Soon
 - Correction on time for the MONO COUNTY stakeholder meeting: June 12, 1:00-3:00PM

ESCCRP, Janet Hatfield

- They are in planning mode for the summer. They want to cover the first 10,000 priority acres with NEPA planning.
- The implementation window for the summer will be condensed. They will likely begin in August.
- They have funding for a large project next summer in Reds Meadow.

Partner Updates

Alpine County

- No updates.

BLM, Philip Gross

- They anticipate lots of visitation for a biker event this weekend.
- They've noticed an increase in temperature at the Cement Tub. It is closed to the public for now.

Caltrans, Ben Downard

- They are kicking off lots of construction projects in Mono County this summer.
- They will host workshops this summer. Check the Caltrans website.

City of Bishop

- No updates.

Humboldt-Toiyabe NF

Melyssa Navis

- They are coordinating with tribes on the aerial application of herbicides across the state.

Brian Hansen

- Dave Risley is the new acting ranger on the Bridgeport District.
 - Acting Bridgeport District Ranger contact information: david.risley@usda.gov
 - Contact Dave to report flooding damage.
- They haven't been able to fill their recreation officer position yet.

Inyo County, Jen Roeser

- South Lake Rd is open to Parchers. It is melting well. There is damage between Parchers and South Lake.
- There is a working group between Inyo County, LADWP, and Inyo NF to repair the Buttermilk Rd. They want to fix the road to get the new toilet installed.
- The Alabama Hills are gorgeous now.
- The mosquito abatement program staff are working hard. They are looking for additional funding.

Inyo National Forest

Fred Wong

- They recently onboarded their assistant recreation officer.
- Thanks to the TOML and DPNM for help monitoring the Reds Meadow Rd. There is still about 8 feet of snow at the Postpile.
- They are working to open the Lakes Basin Rd.

AK

- The region is still trying to hire five recreation staff to start at the beginning or middle of August.

Mono County, Bob Gardner

- Congratulations to the Kutzadika'a tribe on the award from the SNC.
- Rep. Kevin Kiley introduced a bill to federally recognize the Kutzadika'a tribe.
- They are setting up a meeting about the wild horse issue in the Mono Basin.
- Camp Like a Pro had a renewal meeting in May. Bob is reaching out to former donors to purchase dumpsters and portapotties this year.
- President Biden recognized the Mono Basin volunteers for their tremendous service.

National Park Service

Rebecca Carr Wong

- Rebecca shared some photos that were taken on Friday. They have at least eight feet of snow on the ground at the USFS gate.

Sintia Kawasaki-Yee

- The Woods Creek bridge and San Joaquin bridge are destroyed. They are working to identify the necessary repairs.
- They onboarded wilderness trail rangers. They should deploy into the field soon as the snow melts.
- Check the Trail Conditions webpage for more information.
 - <https://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/trailcond.htm>

Town of Mammoth Lakes

Andrew Mulford

- Last week they onboarded three trail crew members and fifteen hosts.
- On Saturday, they had a volunteer event in celebration of National Trails Day. They finished some wooden signs, filled in a trench, and shoveled out snow to open some early season trail opportunities.
- Sign up for future volunteer opportunities: <https://mammothlakesrecreation.org/volunteer>

Dan Holler

- They are patching potholes and rebuilding Laurel Mtn Rd and connecting it to the Parcel.
- The Parcel should open to tenants in November or December.
- They will have to replace a lot of signs this summer.
- They will add pedestrian safety features to a crosswalk on the 203.
- With campgrounds closed for snow and flooding, they anticipate more dispersed camping this summer.

LADWP, Elsa Jimenez

- They are managing runoff and road closures.
- The Owens River Gorge is still closed.
- They continue to urge people to be safe around swift water.