

ESSRP Meeting Notes | 7/10/2023

Participants: 37

Rita Keil, John Wentworth, Deston, Jennifer Crittenden, JMeyer, Adam Barnett, Andrew Mulford, Bethanie DeRose, Bob Gardner, Elizabeth, Brian Hansen, Chris Bubser, Dan Holler, David Griffth, Elaine Kabala, Erika Harvey, Fred Wong, James Powell, Janet Hatfield, Jeff Griffiths, Jen Roeser, John Dayberry, John Urdi, Kara Bechtle, Karen McCoy, Kim Anaclerio, Kristy Williams, Liz Redman Cleveland, Lynda Salcido, Magnolia Barra White, Matt Driscoll, Patrick Johnston, Ranch, Rebecca Carr Wong, Rick Kattelmann, Stuart Brown, T Ellsworth, Tim Bevins, Tyler Lee, Wilfred Nabahe, 1 phone caller

Introductions

- Wilfred Nabahe, Tribal Relations Program Manager, Inyo National Forest
- Sandra Moberly, Mono County CAO
- Bethanie DeRose, JLL
- Erika Harvey, Sierra Business Council
- Magnolia Barra, Sierra Business Council

ESSRP MOU

- The document was distributed to all of the regular ESSRP attendees and the tribal list on the slide.
- MLTPA has gotten positive initial feedback.

Weather

- The skiing has been good.
- Travel on the PCT has been difficult. Hikers have been turning to hitch hiking.
- There have been extreme heat events around the world and in Phoenix. These heat events have no end in sight.
- There is another El Nino pattern predicted for next year that will bring more snow to the Southern Sierra next year.
- Expect more visitors trying to escape the heat.

Situational Awareness

- Visit California is rebranding the state as The Ultimate Playground.
- Visit California is also issuing Regional Strategic Tourism Plans. Phase 4 of the plan will look at ecological sustainability, workforce development, and housing.

Visit California Presentation, Bethanie DeRose

- Bethanie's role is situated in JLL's tourism and destination advisory division.
- Bethanie is the regional lead for Visit California's High Sierra region. She has a team of strategists working with her.
- They are in the input gathering phase now. They'll have focus groups and surveys coming up now through the fall.
- Next year, they'll do more analysis of assets in the region.

- They'll produce a resiliency and sustainability scorecard consisting of a Tourism Readiness Index and Sustainability Index.
- The Tourism Readiness Index looks at 75 data points that affect the tourism economy. They look at outcomes as 8 pillars and 5 typologies.

Tourism Readiness Index



- They finished aggregating all 75 data points.
 - Scale and concentration: Number of hotel rooms, number of visitors, seasonality of visitors, etc.
 - Business: Number of restaurants, number of meeting spaces, etc.
 - Environmental: Air quality, natural disaster risk, etc.
 - Urban readiness: Availability of workforce, transit and traffic, etc.
 - Safety and security: For different populations like women and LGBTQ, etc.
 - Policy: Homeshare policy (Is there regulation? Is there funding?), Is there a tourism plan for visitor management?, etc.
- There are five destination typologies:

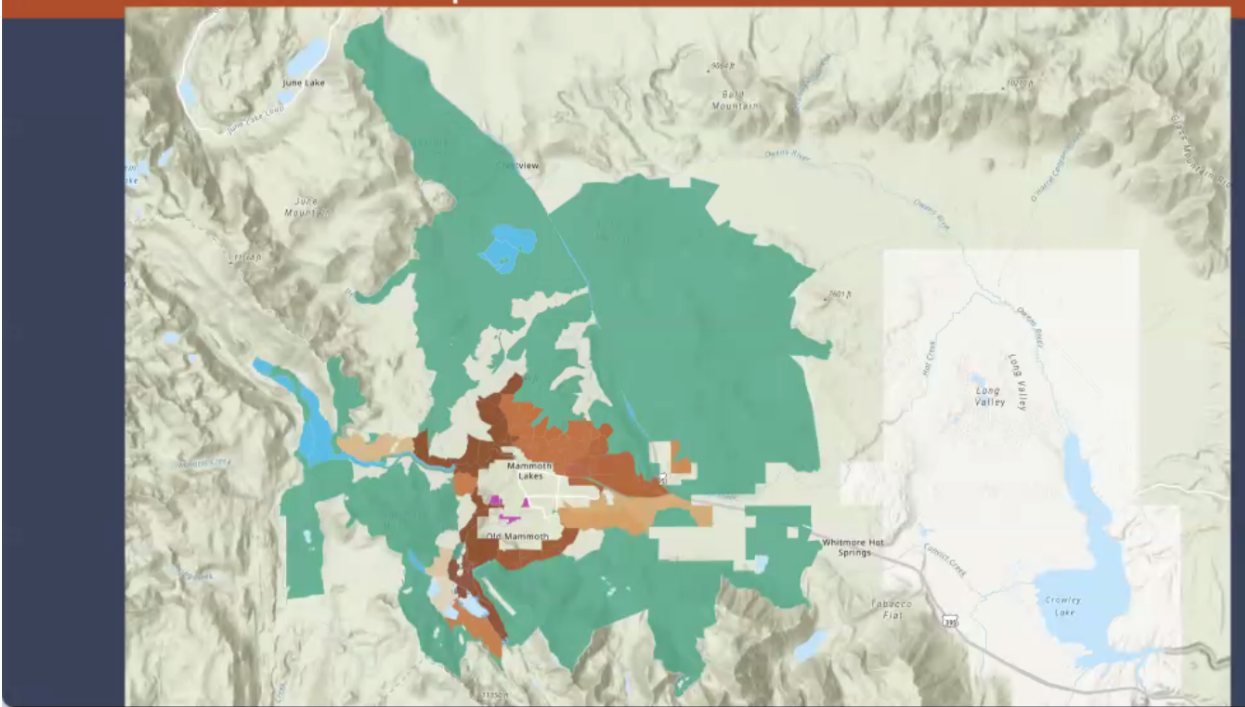


- JLL is working with Visit California to develop typologies for sub-regions.
- They are trying to identify strategies for every region to end up at Balanced Dynamics.
- JLL will meet with groups like the ESSRP to get qualitative information to layer on top of their data.
- The Sustainability Scorecard is meant to roll up to global standards like the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. They'll publish this information in a web tool.
- They are inventorying existing sustainability and climate change vulnerability reports everywhere across the state.

Whitebark Institute, Janet Hatfield

- Whitebark works as a subconsultant to the ESCOG on the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator.
- Mono County won a USDA Bioenergy award that will fund the predevelopment work for a biomass facility that will help dispose of woody material from the Donut project.
- The Donut boundary expanded as a result of Public Scoping. They added more land for treatment to the north near June.

ESCCRP: Accelerator Updates



- The pink areas in the center of Mammoth Lakes will be treated this summer. They'll have public meetings to prepare the community.
- The dark units are highest priority.
- The areas where they are operating now are covered by old NEPA decisions.
- They are doing a lot of new NEPA surveying now.

ESCCRP: Accelerator Updates

Environmental Analysis

- NEPA work is in full swing, aim to survey 10k acres this summer.
- Botany, heritage field crews are working steadily along with INF & Whitebark Foresters, wildlife biologists, hydrologists out & about in the project area.

ESCCRP (Guinea Pigs!) is piloting several different efforts

- This is one of the largest landscape scale projects in the State.
 - Kodama log vault to store long term Carbon
 - LiDAR AI Tools
 - GHG AWE

- Kodama is piloting a log burying technique that would be backup storage if the bioenergy facility doesn't work out.

ESCCRP: Accelerator Updates

Heritage Implementation Plan - Update

- Inyo NF was one of the first forests in the nation to try using this tool and the Forest has gained accolades for their work. Cited as a national example for forests intending to use these tools.
- Recent concern from regional tribes about this new tool to perform section 106 compliance has recently been brought to our attention.
- Inyo NF has invested more effort to honor heritage resources than they ever before, yet the efforts have still come up short.
- Whitebark is working closely with Inyo NF to better understand tribal concerns and work to find solutions. Certainly have some lessons to share with you all for your projects when we come out the other end.

ESCCRP: Accelerator Updates



Those of us working in the pace & scale game, need to keep at the forefront of our minds how to work with tribes to better understand their needs. And work alongside them and with the State to bring essential financial resources or whatever is needed to keep their participation, engagement and support.

CERF Update, John Wentworth, Erika Harvey, and Elaine Kabala

- The state is changing the CERF program in the next couple months. They introduced the Catalyst program to help get money out sooner.
- Erika and Bethanie will connect over synergies for CERF and the Regional Tourism plans.
- https://jamboard.google.com/d/11g2_NL_8kBuAwye2cvfi4LVvaqEuiNzWiMzKhUYdv-g/viewer?f=0
- This is a lightning round for gathering information. Please contact Elaine if you have further thoughts.

Federal & State Updates

- The USFS Reimagine Recreation effort will have a workshop next week:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5zZb7e4BvE6GfuA8-g1GI01v-cdg8SBftJwfgN5WVT5URUVDMVhLOFAxTzJCN05BSk43VORRUDhBUi4u>
- CNRA's Outdoors for All effort is seeking comments before July 18.

Regional Updates, Elaine Kabala

- ESCOG submitted the CEDS draft document for review. It will next go to public comment, then edits, then for votes by the local councils for formal adoption.

Towns to Trails, Tim Bevins

- They completed the county stakeholder kickoff meetings.
- The next project phase will run through the end of the year. They'll work on Collaborative Planning, including a review of existing conditions and a SWOT analysis.

Partner Updates

Town of Mammoth Lakes, Dan Holler and Andrew Mulford

- They are working with the USFS regarding Reds Meadow Rd and the Lakes Basin to open up public access ASAP.
- Andrew's team is doing saw training so they can assist.
- They're restoring signage and trails from winter damage.
- Dogs off leash, ebikes, and MUP speed are recurring problems.
- They've done a first round of fish stocking in the Lakes Basin.
- They partnered with Mono County and the Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps to restore the Lower Rock Creek trail.
- They're working to open trails in the Lakes Basin.

National Park Service

Devils Postpile National Monument, Rebecca Carr Wong

- They have administrative access down the road to open the water and septic systems.

Yosemite National Park, Rebecca Carr Wong

- Check the Yosemite NP website for more information on how to contribute to the Visitor Access Management Plan.
 - https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=113113&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- There is a meeting on July 19 at 4pm.
 - https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MeetingNotices.cfm?projectId=113113&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- There is no estimated opening date for Tioga Pass.

Mono County

Bob Gardner

- There is a meeting this Thursday at 1pm about wild horses. BLM and Inyo NF will present.
- Congressman Kylie introduced a bill to recognize the Kutzadika'a tribe. They have invited the Congressman to the Mono Basin to spend time with the tribe.
- They are working with Inyo National Forest about transferring small tracts of land to the county, related to housing.
- The OPM put out a recent notice in the federal register about locality pay for federal employees. Inyo and Mono counties are not included among the counties they are considering.
- <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/06/28/2023-13621/general-schedule-locality-pay-areas>

Lynda Salcido

- The wildfire education series that ran last summer is available on Mono County's social media pages.

Inyo National Forest

Adam Barnett

- There are three contract trail crews working to restore the Whitney trail and others.
- Victoria Lodico is the new volunteer coordinator for the Inyo NF.
 - INF Volunteer Coordinator: victoria.lodico@usda.gov

Fred Wong

- They are considering opening the Lakes Basin this week.
- There is no estimated opening for Reds Meadow Rd.

Todd Ellsworth

- <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/06/28/2023-13621/general-schedule-locality-pay-areas>
- Todd is acting district ranger in Lone Pine until the end of September.

Tyler Lee

- Tyler is acting district ranger for the White Mountains.
- They are working to open roads for public access.

Wilfred Nabahe

- Joined the supervisor's office a month ago.

Inyo County, Jen Roeser

- The Inyo-Mono RCD will meet tomorrow.
 - Janet: IM RCD...Could serve as a critical partner for several wildfire mitigation projects!

Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, Brian Hansen

- Supervisor Bill is interested in signing the ESSRP MOU. They may have to go through grants and agreements.
- Scotts Lake opened just before the 4th of July.
- A new trails staffer for the Carson Ranger District will start this Wednesday.
- They're providing road damage information on their website.
- They hope to bring on a detail recreation staff officer in the next two months.

City of Bishop

- No update.

Caltrans

- No update

BLM

- No update.

Alpine County, David Griffith

- They had their first farmers market this past Saturday in Markleeville.
- David will attend the SCALE meeting on behalf of the Alpine Biomass Collaborative.
- The Death Ride will take place on Saturday. They expect high temperatures and about 1500 riders.
- Alpine County passed a ballot measure last year restricting the implementation of a biomass facility. They'll have a community meeting at Turtle Rock Park to discuss how to move forward.