

ESSRP Meeting | 4/3/2023

Bob Gardner, John Wentworth, Rita Keil, Marcella Rose, Jeff Adams, David Griffith, Karen Schwarz, Brian Hansen, Jeff Griffiths, Adam Barnett, Fred Wong, Steve Baule, Else Jimenez, Patrick Johnston, Rebecca Carr Wong, Matt Paruolo, Dan Holler, Stacy Corless, Andre Miller, Janet Hatfield, Stephanie Heller, Brenda Ling

Introductions

- Marcella Rose, Mono County Sustainable Recreation Coordinator
- Crystal Medhurst
- Kari Davis
- Kim Anaclerio

Camp Like a Pro

- The four people introduced above are working on the Camp Like a Pro messaging program. Ideally, it will roll up into the Visitor Connection Package, developed by the ESSRP.

Weather Awareness

- “Snowiest Winter Ever.” MMSA broke their all-time snowfall record. There has been huge snowfall in Alpine County. Communities in Mono County have been cut off by avalanches. The snow plots in the southern Sierra set new records.
- There will be a slow-motion unfolding of floods and other natural disasters as the snow melts.
- The LA aqueduct is structurally compromised.
- NOAA will have a water briefing tomorrow.
- The snowfall and its associated disasters have garnered national attention and emergency support.
- The TOML made a huge mobilization of snow plows and trucks.
- There have been two major propane explosions in the TOML.

Jeff Adams, CalOES, Assistant Chief of Special Operations, Hazmat, Fire & Rescue

- Jeff’s territory extends from the Mexican border to the northern end of Mono County.
- CalOES has provided several special operations teams, including structural safety specialists and search and rescue teams.
- They anticipate an intense year for water rescue.
- It’s prudent now to train government agents in emergency response management and ICS now.

Alpine County Emergency Situation, David Griffith

- Bear Valley passed 600 inches of snow.
- Overall, Alpine County is coping well with the snow situation.

Bureau of Land Management, Philip Gross

- They are trying to open a few more campgrounds to accommodate spring break visitation.
- They are monitoring for flooding and making road repairs as needed.

Caltrans (no representative)

City of Bishop, Karen Schwarz and Destin Dishion

- The emergency is stable now but they anticipate flooding later. There was some localized flooding in a park.
- They are working on the Whitney Alley pedestrian project and the East Line Street bridge design and environmental review.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Brian Hansen and Nate Bech

- They've been working with the campground concessionaire to adjust opening dates.
- They are asking the public to wait to drive on dirt roads until they dry out.
- The H-T NF created a road and trail status update page that allows the public to contribute observations.
 - See the chat for a link to a press release about this program.
- They will open campgrounds as the snow melts.
- They put out a restroom maintenance request for bids.

Inyo County, Jeff Griffiths

- It's very windy in Inyo County.
- Many roads flooded. Lower Rock Creek Road, Upper Chalk Bluff, Buttermilk Rd, etc. Pretty much all of the climbing access roads are impacted.
- The Whitney Portal Rd was almost lost but it was saved at the last minute.
- They are actively trying to prepare for the coming runoff.
- There were avalanche concerns in Aspendell and Lower Bishop Creek.

Inyo National Forest

Adam Barnett

- They're working on storm damage assessment of secondary roads.
- They're developing a plan B for recreation openings this summer.

Fred Wong

- They'll open Lake Mary and Reds Meadow later than usual this year.
- They brought in contractors to help plow areas with sensitive access.
- They're preparing for flooding in recreation areas in the south. They're stockpiling signs to direct the public.
- They've submitted requests to repair roads in the southern region, but they have to compete with other systems in the region for repair resources.
- CalOES and the Inyo National Forest had a brief meeting to establish contacts but they haven't collaborated beyond that.

Stephanie Heller

- They'll open campgrounds as the snow melts and flooding subsides.

LADWP

Steve Baule

- There's a local emergency covering LA, Kern, Inyo, and Mono counties for air and water quality.

Elsa Jimenez

- They're trying to prepare for runoff and flooding of structures and roads.
- They can't emphasize enough that washouts are dangerous. People need to respect road closures.

Mono County

Bob Gardner

- Power was restored again for Mono City.
- The escort control in the avalanche path above Lee Vining continues.
- June Lake has an informal "Camp Like A Pro"-type coalition addressing flooding and runoff in the June Lake Loop.
- June Mountain will close next Sunday. It was really busy last weekend including with backcountry skiing.
- The Mono Basin has formed a few resident task forces with the Forest Service focused on the Mono Lake Basin at the visitor center, South Lake Tufa, and other recreation sites.
- Bob Gardner spoke with Rep. Kevin Kiley. They spoke about sponsoring a COLA for federal employees in the Eastern Sierra. He asked for more information. They also spoke about allowing the county to retain small parcels of USFS land for housing or other purposes. They also spoke about securing federal recognition of the Kutzadika'a tribe.
- Caltrans is hoping to reopen the 395 later this week or next. They'll have a pilot car from 7am to 7pm and full opening after 7pm.

Lynda Salcido

- It will be critical to invest in Incident Command Systems going forward. The TOML was very fortunate to have top-tier emergency responders on hand during the two propane explosions.
- The Incident Command Systems that were set up between the TOML, Mono County, and Inyo County worked.

Marcella Rose

- They're trying to anticipate where there will be significant trail flooding and damage.
- Marcella is trying to secure funding for a contractor for trail work.

National Park Service

Patrick Johnston

- The Manzanar Pilgrimage is scheduled for April 29.
 - <https://manzanarcommittee.org/category/manzanar-pilgrimage/>
 - <https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/manz/pilgrimage.html>

Yosemite NP, Joe Meyer

- YNP is open after a 3-week closure.
- They're working on road repairs.
- Opening the high country will be very challenging this year.
- Ongoing construction projects will be delayed as they wait for soils to dry out.

Devils Postpile NM, Rebecca Carr Wong

- They have about 16-feet of snow as of the last survey.
- CA DWR flew a helicopter to the Postpile to do the snow survey because of the high avalanche risk.

Southern California Edison, Matt Paruolo

- They've been embedded in the ICS structure and storm response since mid-December.
- SCE will use their redeveloped emergency response program to manage high waterflows.
- They anticipate 300% of average snowpack.

Town of Mammoth Lakes, Dan Holler

- Amerigas is working on digging out lines around different buildings. They're trying to hire shovelers.
- The MMCF is also trying to hire shovelers to help residents with emergency shoveling.
- Discourage people from visiting the propane explosion sites.
- The TOML is working with CalOES. They anticipate some resources will be able to demobilize this weekend.
- Travel may become dangerous as temperatures fall tonight.
- They're expecting flooding as temperatures increase at the end of the week.
- The TOML virtual recreation expo for summer programs went well.
- Work continues on the TOML's affordable housing programs.
- Visit mono.ready.ca.gov to report structural damage. These filings help the TOML and county to file for federal damage recovery.
- The TOML is talking with businesses on how to recover from business expenses associated with the heavy snowfall.

Situational Awareness

- The hiking season will be an interesting one. We should prepare our messaging to tell people what they can and cannot do.

Regional Awareness

Community Economic Resilience Fund, Stacy Corless

- They are contracted with the state.
- They are appointing people to councils and subcommittees. There are still some open seats on committees. Get in touch with Stacy.
- They hope to kick off the planning process in June.
- The CERF planning process will last for approximately a year before moving into implementation.

ESCOG, Elaine Kabala

- The CEDS process is underway. This process will allow the Eastern Sierra three county region to access federal economic development funding. Many listeners on this call have received invitations to work with the CEDS consultants. Please contact Elaine or your county's economic development manager if you'd like to be involved.
- The new ESCOG website is getting ready to launch later this week.
- At the next ESCOG meeting, they'll vote on the ESSRP MOU. They'll also debrief the air working group meeting.
- The delivery of the toilet under the BIRPI project is delayed because of the Buttermilk Rd washout. Elaine is working with the grantor on a project extension.
- ESCOG brought on two contractors to work on the planning portion of the BIRPI.
- ESCOG will meet on April 21. They will discuss the ESSRP MOU.

Reliable Regional Air Service, John Wentworth

- There will be a roundtable discussion about reliable regional air service this Friday.

Towns to Trails, Tim Bevins and Kristy Williams

- This is a tri-county front country trail planning effort.
- The consulting team has started with document review to understand what planning efforts have been done in the past.
- The land manager and tribe kick-off meeting will be on Monday at 3pm. We're asking people to register so we can be sure we get to speak with everyone.
- Reach out to Kristy Williams if you need an invitation or have any questions.
- At this meeting, we'll explore key agreements about how to handle different types of gaps in the trail network.

ESCCRP, Janet Hatfield

- They are trying to set themselves up for success when the "ground turns brown." They've been investing in building out their organization.

Innovative Finance for National Forests, Andre Miller

- The Inyo NF released a campground concessionaire prospectus.
- They're looking at how funding from the GAOA can be leveraged to make campground design documents.