

ESSRP Meeting Notes | 10/2/2023

John Wentworth, Rita Keil, David Griffith, Rick Kattelman, John Urdi, Bob Gardner, Craig Albright, Adam Barnett, Andrew Mulford, Stacy Corless, Philip Gross, Janet Hatfield, Brenda Ling, Brian Hansen, Kristy Williams, Elain Kabala, Chris, Tim Bevins, Jeff Griffiths, Marcella Rose, James Powell, Dan Holler, Deston Dishion, Sintia Kawasaki-Yee

Federal News

- The federal government shutdown has been averted for 45 days. The U.S. House will continue to work toward a vote on a full budget.

Remembering Senator Feinstein, Stacy Corless

- Senator Dianne Feinstein passed away. She was a pragmatic conservationist and played a large role in legislation to protect Lake Tahoe. She was instrumental in the foundation of Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks and the Bristlecone Wilderness.

Partner Updates

Alpine County, David Griffith

- This weekend was the Washoe Fall Harvest Festival.

BLM Bishop, Philip Gross

- Climbing season is picking up in the Alabama Hills, Happys, and Sads.
- There is a number of events happening around Lone Pine.
- They are wrapping up a trail and kiosk project at the Travertine Hot Springs.

Caltrans, Andrew Besold

- Andrew will try to pull together a regional workshop for the latest round of Active Transportation funding.

City of Bishop, Deston Dishion

- The City continues to work on its collaboration to improve use at Millpond.

Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, Brian Hansen

- Brian will work on the MOU.
- Campgrounds on the district are pretty much all closed, with the exception of one campground at Mt. Rose.

Inyo County, Jeff Griffiths

- A lot of tourist communities in the southeast portion of the county are suffering financially due to the closure of Death Valley NP. The park will hopefully reopen partially on October 15.
- They continue to clean up from Hurricane Hilary. The damage to this point totals \$16 million. It could become a cashflow issue even though the repairs are reimbursable through FEMA.

- Inyo County established a 5-year maintenance agreement with the Inyo National Forest for Buttermilk Rd. This will hopefully allow the toilet to be installed at the bouldering area.
- Fall is here, but the desert flowers are still blooming.

Inyo National Forest, Adam Barnett

- There is a new district ranger for Mt. Whitney, Taro (?).
- Red's Meadow Rd is still closed on weekdays for construction. There will be some controlled burns in the next few weeks, depending on weather.
- It is the open comment period through October 15 on the Over-Snow Vehicle Plan.

Mono County

Marcella Rose

- Mono County executed a trail crew contract with the Town of Mammoth Lakes to build the trail at Travertine Hot Springs. Mono County is working with MLTPA on signage.
- Mono County is working with Caltrans to provide Camp Like a Pro information at their rest stops.
- MLTPA is helping to design etiquette signs for fall color viewing.
- Mono County is installing gates for seasonal closure of Buckeye Rd. They are getting ready to pilot a winter cross country program there.
- There was a Public Lands Day celebration at the Mono Basin Visitor Center.
- Let Marcella know if you need staff support.

Liz Grans

- Thank you to Bob and Marcella. Liz and Amanda are tuning in for updates.

Bob Gardner

- There will be a TBID proposal for the June Lake area on the board agenda tomorrow.
- Tomorrow the board will approve an agreement with a housing coordinator.

National Park Service

Manzanar National Historic Site, Brenda Ling

- The shutdown was averted for 45 days.
- They've been working hard to reopen the tour road after the damage from Hurricane Hilary.

Yosemite National Park, Joe Meyer

- The Visitor Access Management Plan second public engagement period ended. They received thousands of comments, some of which had multiple pages.
- They are preparing to winterize the Tioga Rd corridor by October 15. It's important to winterize the road sufficiently to be ready for spring. There may be short-term closures before the full closure.

Sequoia-Kings NP, Sintia Kawasaki-Yee

- Mineral King Rd construction should start this week and continue for about a month. The project will not be complete this year and will continue next year.
- There are several other construction projects underway.

Town of Mammoth Lakes

Dan Holler

- The TOML is working with the BLM on potential trails around Doe Ridge and Whitmore park.
- SHARP work is continuing through the NEPA process.
- The TOML is coordinating with the Inyo NF on issues like the snow pit.
- The TOML continues work repairing the MUPs and fostering better user behavior.
- The road projects in town will hopefully wrap up in the next couple weeks.
- They broke ground on the dog park.
- Wood cutting in the Lakes Basin started this week.
- An obstacle course race kicks off on Thursday. 2,000 people will participate.
- The TOML put in two grants for a biomass facility, as part of the Mammoth Donut.

Andrew Mulford

- Wood harvesting in the Lakes Basin opened today. It will run through November 30.
- The TOML celebrated National Public Lands Day with a clean up event in the Lakes Basin.
- The TOML is preparing comments on the Inyo National Forest's Over-Snow Vehicle Plan.

Lawson Reif

- The TOML parcels that were thinned as part of the Mammoth Donut are complete. It looks great! The next steps will be restoration and public education.
- The TOML got some stencils from a state campaign to provide e-bike education.

Visit Mammoth, John Urdi

- Many obstacle course racers joined MLT for a clean up event over the weekend.
- MLT signed a multi-year contract to continue hosting the obstacle course race.

ESSRP MOU

- Irvin Jim is no longer the chair of the Hung-a-lai-ti.

Federal & National News

- Various news sources are sounding the alarm for another wet winter.
- There is some movement to update the 1872 mining law in contention at Hot Creek.
- Jessica Morse has announced she will run for Kevin Kiley's congressional seat.
- Tahoe continues to struggle with tourism and look for solutions.

Regional News

- The John Northmore Roberts team will come to the region to start work on redesigns for Inyo NF campgrounds.

- The ESCOG will discuss the airport in Bishop. They're look at Montrose, CO and Whitefish, MT as examples.

ESCOG News, Elaine Kabala

- The CEDS is moving forward.
- The Towns to Trails meetings in each county were very successful. The next step will be for Alta Planning + Design to analyze all of the public comments and refine the trail alignment proposal. The public will get a chance to comment on the refined alignment in 2024. There will be a ground truthing exercise, as well.
- ESCOG held the first Buttermilk Infrastructure and Recreation Planning Initiative public meeting. About 60 people attended. The public was strongly supportive of the toilet installation. The Buttermilk Rd has been repaired and is open.
- Thank you to everyone who joined the meetings.

CERF News, Stacy Corless

- The High Road Transition Council will meet on October 27 in Mammoth and virtually. Please RSVP:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKPAbXa3Lks7ruKB7YA84eLaYLzS9wOGQYBMe7-fZhi8QCwQ/viewform>
- The meeting will have discussion of the priority projects for funding. One emerging priority is healthcare: access to healthcare and careers in healthcare.
- The ultimate goal of this phase of the CERF is to arrive at projects and funding sources that address community priorities.
- Here's a link to the federal Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission report-- California was well represented on this commission and it's a solid, actionable report:
<https://www.usda.gov/topics/disaster-resource-center/wildland-fire/commission>
- And, once again, the link to SBC's website and lots of information about upcoming CERF meetings and ways to engage. We need lots of input on regional economic development projects: <https://www.sierrabusiness.org/archives/cerf/>

ESCCRP, Janet Hatfield

- The NEPA document should be published this fall.
- They continue to work with the tribes on reviewing the project in smaller sections instead of all at once.
- The project pivoted to remove large downed trees from that were felled for the Red's Meadow Rd reconstruction.
- They will hold a work celebration on October 20. Look for an RSVP.