

CA Jobs First Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Cohort

Quick recap

The March 6th Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Cohort meeting featured presentations from John about the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership and Jesse Vorenberg from Rails to Trails Conservancy discussing the Bay Area Trails Collaborative. John shared updates on climate impacts affecting the Sierra region, including unusual weather patterns and their implications for skiing and water resources. Jesse presented on the Bay Area Trails Collaborative's work to create a 2,600-mile interconnected trail network across the nine-county Bay Area, highlighting their mapping efforts and advocacy work. The conversation ended with Anne Bown-Crawford's presentation on Arts in California Parks, which detailed a grant program aimed at integrating arts into state and local parks through pilot projects and an artist directory.

Summary

Sustainable Tourism Cohort Meeting Overview

The meeting was officially started at 1:35 PM and introduced as the March 6th Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Cohort meeting. Calder outlined upcoming presentations, including one from Jesse Vorenberg about the Bay Area Trails Collaborative project and another from Ann Bohn-Crawford on Arts in California Parks.

Eastern Sierra Recreation Policy Updates

John provided updates from the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership, highlighting recent weather challenges including unusual snowfall patterns and their impact on the ski industry. He discussed ongoing policy work analyzing barriers for catalyst projects, including campground redevelopment and recreation education paths, with recommendations being developed for the state. John also announced upcoming meetings on regional branding and financing, and mentioned new legislation AB2578 which could establish a state Office of Outdoor Access. The conversation ended with information about a wildfire resilience strategy being adopted by multiple counties and a discussion of AB2578, with Lexi encouraging attendees to support the bill by contacting their assembly members.

Bay Area Trails Collaborative Overview

Jesse Voremberg, Trail Development Manager for the Western Region at Rails to Trails Conservancy, presented on the Bay Area Trails Collaborative (BATSE), a coalition of about 60 organizations working to create an interconnected network of regional trails in the Bay Area. Jesse explained that BATSE aims to connect 2,600 miles of existing and proposed trails, including key regional spines like the Bay Area Ridge Trail and San Francisco Bay Trail, to serve both recreational and transportation purposes. The coalition operates through four working groups that meet quarterly, with no membership dues required, focusing on trail development, stewardship, partnerships, policy and funding, and the San Francisco Bay Trail specifically.

Bay Area Trails Collaborative Overview, Cont.

Jesse presented on the Bay Area Trails Collaborative (BATC), highlighting that 108 major transit stations are within a half-mile walk or two-mile bike ride of the 2,600-mile trail network. The organization focuses on advocacy, mapping, and prioritizing key projects, with 17 priority projects selected including seven Bay Trail projects covering 150 remaining miles. Jesse discussed their work updating the comprehensive trail network map in partnership with MTC and Alta Planning, which was adopted into MTC's Regional Active Transportation Plan and influenced funding decisions, with 80% of Priority Conservation Area Grant Program funding going to projects within the BATC footprint.

California Parks Arts Program Overview

Anne presented an overview of the Arts in California Parks program, explaining how it was funded through state legislation and currently operates through both state parks and local parks initiatives. She highlighted key resources including a statewide artist directory and venue finder tool, and announced that grant applications for the program are currently open with a letter of intent due on the 13th. Calder noted that Humboldt County has been successful in securing large grants for outdoor arts programs and encouraged attendees to reach out with questions about the application process.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 3rd to discuss the upcoming April 23rd symposium.