

Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project

May 27, 2021

Meeting Summary

1. Fun Fact 5 Tracking the Indices: Tools fire managers use for decision making

A quick lesson about understanding the [Energy Release Component](#), and how it is used in Fire Management.

2. Welcome & Introductions

a. Attendees

- Andrew Mulford, Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access
- Bob Gardener, Mono County
- Chance Traub, Inyo National Forest
- Gordon Martin, Inyo National Forest
- Holly Alpert, Eastern California Water Association
- Janet Hatfield, Plumas Corp.
- John Wentworth, Town of Mammoth Lakes
- Kelsey Glastetter, Plumas Corp.
- Kim Anaclerio, Mammoth Lakes Recreation
- Kim Cooke, Town of Mammoth Lakes
- Malcolm Clark, Sierra Club
- Marc Meyer, USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station
- Matt Driscoll, Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Rick Kattelmann, Plumas Corp. & Eastern California Water Association
- Ron Tucker, LADWP
- Stacy Corless, Mono County
- Stephen Calkins, Inyo National Forest
- Steve McCabe, MMSA
- Taro Pusina, Inyo National Forest
- Tom Schaniel, GBUAPCD

3. Project Progress Updates

a. Web Updates

A brief overview of the improvements to ESCCRP website was provided to the Group. The information on the website has been reorganized to sustainably house project information as the project continues to grow. Some key features are highlighted below:

- Information regarding previous meetings is now housed on its own page, [Meeting Archives](#). To access the Meeting Archives page, go to the Stakeholder Information page then press “Meeting Archives” button on the right side of the Stakeholder Information banner.
- Press the “Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project” banner at the top of any of the ESCCRP pages to return to the ESCCRP home page.
- Press the right arrow to expand boxes to see additional information; press the down arrow to collapse boxes.
- You can now track planning progress by task on the Stakeholder Information page. Click on the arrow to the right of each planning task to view relevant information/documents.

The ESCCRP website will continue to evolve as the project progresses. We welcome your feedback, please email kelsey@plumascorporation.org or click the “Contact Webmaster” button on the bottom of the Stakeholder Information Page to help us improve the ESCCRP website.

Action Item: Send your organization’s logo to kelsey@plumascorporation.org to be displayed on the Stakeholder Information page and demonstrate your organization’s support for the project.

b. CAL FIRE Forest Health Direct Award

At time of the last meeting, April 15, we had been invited to submit a one-page pre-screening proposal to CAL FIRE’s Forest Health Direct Grant Program. Since then, our one-page project proposal was selected to move forward as a Direct Award Grant Applicant. We have prepared and submitted the Direct Award Project Application to CAL FIRE.

The ESCCRP Phase 1 Implementation grant proposal put forward the following treatments:

- Reds Meadows (448 acres hand thinning, 300 acres prescribed fire)
- Lakes Basin (disposal of existing piles, 542 acres pile burn)
- Three Creeks (542 acres mechanical thinning)
- Hwy 395 Median (118 acres mechanical thinning from SR 203 to Wilson Butte)
- Sherwin 2 Scenic (88 acres mechanical thinning, 28 acres aspen regeneration)
- Non-federal ownership (CEQA on all proposed parcels; 35 acres hand thinning- Camp High Sierra, 29 acres hand thinning- Mammoth Creek Parcels, 16 acres hand thinning- Bell Shaped Parcel)

In total, 2,156 acres were proposed for a total ask of approximately \$4.9 million. Maps of the proposed units are available on the [ESCCRP Maps](#) page (click on each map to view full screen in a separate window).

c. CAL FIRE Prevention Grants

Rick Kattelmann shared an update on the RFFCP proposals to the CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grants Program. Across the RFFCP Eastern Sierra Subregion five proposals were submitted focusing the following prevention activities:

- Region-wide comprehensive visitor Outreach & Education
- CWPP Planning for Independence greater metro area and the 40 Acres Community
- 40 Acres Community Fuels Reduction
- Inyo National Forest Fuels Reduction (Mono City, Mammoth Lakes, and Aspendell)
- Optical sensors for early fire and smoke detection for Crowley Lake, Mammoth Lakes, and June Lake

d. CDFW NEPA Planning TBD

In February, we submitted a proposal the CDFW Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration Grant Program proposing to build a locally based interdisciplinary team. If funded, this team will perform the environmental analysis for NEPA as well as surveys on 10,000 priority acres of the ESCCRP as a first task. To fund the NEPA planning for this project is a major hurdle as securing planning funding at this scale is difficult. This solicitation was highly competitive, receiving a total of 128 proposals. We are hopeful as we await the award announcements, which are anticipated in June but may be delayed due to the volume of proposals received by CDFW. We will make an announcement to the Group when we know more information.

4. Recap of Progress To Date & Review of Today’s Agenda

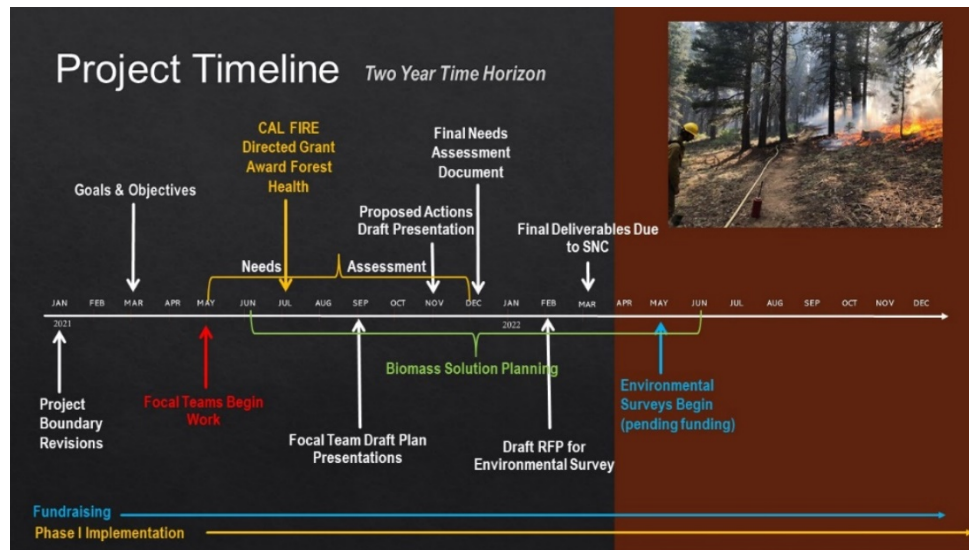
a. Recap of Progress to Date

Under the scope of current SNC grant, three key tasks require Stakeholder's contribution.

- i. Refine Project Boundary (January)
- ii. Define Goals & Objectives (January, March, May)
- iii. Needs Assessment (April, May, June, July, August)

A project timeline was presented to the group to demonstrate the ESCCRP tasks on a two-year time horizon.

- White font- tasks funded through SNC grant
- Green font- biomass solution planning funded through NFWF grant
- Yellow font- CAL FIRE Directed Grant Award (funding not confirmed at present)



5. Goals & Objectives Continued

Stephen Calkins introduced the Goals & Objectives (G&O) conversation with a brief presentation addressing confusion that arose during previous G&O conversations regarding the focus on mechanical, fuel reduction treatments, and where prescribed/managed fire fits within the ESCCRP. Throughout the project area, some Forest Service units already have existing NEPA decisions (Reds Meadow, Three Creeks, Lakes Basin, and others) which allow either prescribed fire or mechanical treatments to help to begin to reset forest structure to within its natural range, and thereby making it able to accept beneficial fire. Areas that are not covered under an existing NEPA decision will need to be developed as a part of the ESCCRP NEPA. Proposed actions in these areas will only involve mechanical treatments to prepare the forest for prescribed fire. This is because the entire ESCCRP falls within the Inyo Forest-wide Rx Fire NEPA, which is currently pending a decision. Once approved, the Inyo Forest-wide Rx Fire NEPA will allow prescribed burning in the ESCCRP and across the Inyo National Forest letting us capitalize on the mechanical treatment investments of the ESCCRP NEPA. However, this burning cannot occur until the appropriate mechanical treatments have been completed in many instances due to extreme fuel loading which makes Rx burning outside the scope of acceptable risk. The [Interacting Project NEPAs Presentation](#) is available in the May 27 Meeting Archives.

The Forest Service has been working internally on the G&O document to integrate comments from the previous G&O conversations. Stephen presented the two versions of revised G&O document to

the group, one version with one-word descriptors and one version with longer descriptions, both versions shared the same extended description of each goal. The group came to consensus to use longer description goals as they remove the ambiguity associated with the one-word goals. However, the group suggested to save the one-word description version as in the future it could be a beneficial tool for creating graphics for outreach material. The group proposed some wordsmithing to various goals and objectives. Another suggestion proposed to adopt language presented in various state environmental plans (The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, California Climate Action Plan, etc.) to better align ourselves with funder's goals and policy objectives as we apply to future state funded grant solicitations.

Suggestions have been incorporated into the G&O document and are available for review on the Stakeholder Information Page. We, as ESCCRP Stakeholders, need to be confident as we close the chapter on the Goals & Objectives as they lay the groundwork for the future of the ESCCRP.

Action Item: Review the current version of the Goals & Objectives document and submit any final suggestions to kelsey@plumascorporation.org

6. Boundary Edits Progress

Kelsey Glastetter provided an update on the edits to the project boundary. The revised project boundary is available on the [ESCCRP Web Map](#) and a [Boundary Revisions Packet](#) providing details on the revisions is available on the Stakeholder Information page. The project boundary needs to be finalized so we know where Proposed Actions need to be developed.

Action Item: Partners that have parcels that warrant additional consideration should send the parcel information along with rationale for inclusion to kelsey@plumascorporation.org.

7. Needs Assessment Action Plan

Janet Hatfield outlines the next task, the Needs Assessment, to the Group. Over the summer months we will divide into smaller focused groups, Ad Hoc Focal Teams. By working in focused teams, we can more effectively identify and layout plans to solve for the variety of challenges that lay ahead. Currently, there are seven Focal Teams identified: Outreach & Education, Finance & Marketing, Biomass Utilization, Operations, Prioritization (Rec & Wildlife), Workforce Development, and Research & Monitoring. These teams may not be all encompassing, if you see the need for an additional team(s), please contact janet@plumascorporation.org. Appropriate team leaders will be identified and will meet mid-June the team leaders will circulate a doodle poll to set kickoff meetings for each team. Throughout the summer teams will work to identify goals, tasks, deliverables, budget, and populate the work plan template. In September, we will reconvene as the Stakeholder Group and each focal team will present their findings to the rest of the Group. The [Needs Assessment Intro Presentation](#), including example team tasks and an example workplan template, is available on the Stakeholder Information page.

To make the most out of the Needs Assessment exercise we are actively seeking participants to help on one or more of the focal teams. Please consider where your expertise may be most helpful and sign up for an Ad Hoc Focal Team on the website. We are also asking that you network with people within your organization and outside the Stakeholder Group to recruit individuals who can meet for a few topically focused meetings this summer to help optimize our Needs Assessment. Sign up by 6/15 to make sure to not miss out.

Action Item: Sign up for a Summer Ad Hoc Focal Team at <https://forms.gle/R1c2kU7fY9uo6JgY6>

8. Meeting Wrap-Up and Next Steps

a. Meeting Wrap-Up

- We will be work in Focal Teams for the summer months to develop the Needs Assessment
- Plumas Corp will work to identify Ad Hoc Focal Team Leads
- Team Leaders meeting in mid-June
- Focal Teams meet starting late June — keep an eye out for doodle poll from Team Leaders
- Reconvene as Stakeholder Group in September to present Focal Team findings

b. Review of Action Items

- Send your organization's logo to Kelsey to be displayed on the Stakeholder Information page
- Review the current version of the G&O document and submit any final revisions to Kelsey
- Partners that have parcels that warrant additional consideration should send the parcel information along with rational for inclusion to Kelsey
- Sign up for Ad Hoc Focal Team(s) by 6/15/2021 to not miss out.