



Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)

Monday February 5, 2024 – 3:30 PM

Via ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88006162291?pwd=K2Y3REdyZkpTdHBYSiROVjF3MzZ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 880 0616 2291 Passcode: 495260

Items Highlighted in Yellow are attached to the agenda. Please also review the meeting presentation.

The Partnership Current Signatories: Alpine County*; BLM* City of Bishop*; Inyo County*; CALTRANS*; Mono County; Town of Mammoth Lakes; Inyo National Forest; Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, National Park Service*
*have voted or otherwise agreed to sign partnership agreement **Partners in Process:** NPS; LADWP

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Welcome + Housekeeping

3. Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation: Regional Projects

a. ESCOG: Sustainable Recreation + Ecosystem Management Program

i. Towns to Trails

1. Tim Bevins - Alta Planning

2. Presentation Comments:

- a. Doing a “fine-grained peer review” before going out to the public. Expect to do a public process in the spring.

ii. Buttermilk Infrastructure & Recreation Planning Initiative

1. Presentation Comments:

- a. Bulk of the work was intended to be an inclusive community engagement process. Multiple meetings – 200 comments
- b. Outputs from meetings: includes a range of solutions with the goal of relative next steps in areas. Some identified things will require more refinement and possibly community engagement – these were pulled out of executive summary.
- c. This area that people love to recreate in, are managed by many different jurisdictions.
- d. Next Step: Develop a consensus management group –
 - i. Going to ESCOG 2/28

2. Jen Roeser - Inyo County 4th District Supervisor

- a. Perfect public comment period. Spoke with Lesley Yen. Had many conversations with Wesley. Seemed most obvious that the County needed to take on a facilitation role.
- b. Took this doc's first recommendation – to convene management group – focused on the areas of highest interest – Bouldering areas. Now the FS and DWP as primary land owners and then Bishop Paiute Tribe. Now climbing groups are included.
- c. First meeting last week – introductions, governance matters, set up subcommittees. Looked for most agreed-upon topics. Tribe is leading some of the interp/education/related. All agreed to review BIRPI docs.



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- d. Meeting cadence established. Next meeting will review BIRPI doc, “low hanging fruit”. Doc is data rich. Off to a good start.
- iii. Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project
 - 1. *Laura Beardsley - Whitebark Institute, Executive Director*
- b. MLTPA
 - i. Inyo National Forest Campgrounds: Pilot Projects
 - ii. SRTI Visitor Connection Program - *with Whitebark Institute*
 - iii. California’s Fifth Climate Assessment / Regional Synthesis Reports
- c. Sierra Business Council
 - i. California Jobs First / CERF: “Regional Summary: Part I”
 - ii. Presentation Notes:
 - 1. Main message is “still in the planning phase of CJF” focus on econ devep plan/strat plan. Will be looking to engage broadly across the region. Part 1 is 300+ pages. Team has produced summaries and videos if you don’t have time to read through it all. Look forward to even maybe engaging this group.
 - 2. Time has been extended from the state.

4. Federal & National Updates

- a. Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
 - i. “Roundtable Rural Economic Development Toolkit”
 - ii. “Mapping Project”
- i. Hot Links February 5, 2024 - Regional Recreation Focused
- ii. Question: Has the Eastern Sierra ever had the opportunity to visit national “sister” outdoor rec communities to explore challenges and opportunities?

5. ESSRP MOU

- a. Signatory Updates

6. Partner Insights and Updates in Alphabetical Order

- a. Alpine County
 - i. David Griffith – lots of snow. RE: sustainable rec, no updates
 - ii. Bill Young – Alpine Trails Ass. – something big in the works, premature to say anything. Hope to have an update during the next meeting. Would impact town-to-trails and more.
 - iii. John Dayberry – Connected with Bethany from JLL. She’s interested in the Myers information center. Wanted to talk about local Washoe culture. We’ve connected with Peter Brand – at Grover Hot Springs – about incorp Washoe cultural and stewardship program expansion from outings to stewardship programs. Further talks. Also met with Ben



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Gabriel – new director of American Alpine Club. Talking also about getting information out, engaging East Side Tribes in the development of stewardship programs and messages. Met with Buttermilk Project manager – to talk about engaging with climbing community and other sustainable rec stuff. Aiming to build synergy.

b. BLM

- i. Phil Gross – Americorps trail crew to help with Alabama Hills trail in the next couple of weeks. 11 mile trail – about ½ mile washed out in Hilary Event. Flash Foxy Climbing event coming up in about a month. Service projects come out of that – hoping to get some work on the trail as well. Late May/June CCC Trail Crew to work on Lower Rock Creek Trail. This crew will focus on brushing, fuels reduction. Fully paid for, exciting stuff!

c. CALTRANS

- i. Andrew Besold – Active Transport, Cycle 7 (CTC) workshop we're hosting in person Tuesday 2/13 – 500 S. Main – at 2pm. Please come to the meeting to learn about grant program. We'll have site visits – Sierra Street in Bishop, and Big Pine Paiute project – would love to see a full house since leadership is coming from out of town. Don't need to RSVP but let me know if you think you can make it. Andrew.besold@dot.ca.gov Want to touch base on Towns-to-Trails plan and how it interacts with state highway network.

d. City of Bishop – not present

- i. Jeff Griffiths – two inches of rain but infrastructure is holding so far. We are in the process of hiring a new Parks and Rec director.

e. ESCOG

- i. Elaine Kabala - Next meeting Feb 28th – looking at final draft of Buttermilk Document. Reiterate that ESCOG is pleased to work with CJF, one of the areas of focus is sus rec and tourism. Encourage partners to be thinking about opportunities to engage with that project and inform strat doc. Reach out to Stacy or Elaine anytime.

f. HT National Forest, USFS

- i. Brian Hansen – no major update. MLTPA to follow up on MOU.

g. Inyo County

h. Inyo National Forest, USFS

- i. Adam Barnett – no update
- ii. Stephanie Heller – we have not started winter grooming for OHV. Equipment problems and now need to train new staff on equipment. Expect that to happen soon, but TBD.
- iii. Taro Pusina – Mt. Whitney Ranger – reiterate big thank you to Elaine/ESCOG/Alta/MLTPA. Sets the stage. Jen for successful Buttermilk Partner meeting. Lots of other areas to look at and address use in. A lot of our focus is on regional hiring (in the 3rd round right now). To incentivize, we've gotten approval to convert temp to term positions. Rec Techs ect. Approval to hire temp-perm. Philip and I working together.



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- iv. Philip DeSenze – transitioning back from being gone on detail. Looking forward to getting back into the groove. Glad to hear what’s happening in the Buttermilks. Never been so excited about a new toilet anywhere.
- v. Dannon Dirgo – echo appreciation from ESCOG and supporting partners to make the bathroom happen.
- i. Mono County – Marcella Rose – nothing to report – chugging on administratively.
 - i. Wendilyn Grasseschi – organizing communities to be more wildfire-adapted. Working to deploy defensible space trailer to go out to public
- j. National Park Service – Rebecca Carr Wong – We’ve got a NPF grant to do youth group activities at DePo – working with JMTC to rehab the river trails.
- k. Town of Mammoth Lakes –
 - i. Dan Holler – with snow, we’ll be getting on grooming. Planning work – Sherwin TH is going out to bid next summer – includes a new toilet. Following that will be a trail design in Sharps area. Indoor Recreation – great turn out for the grand opening of partnership with LA Kings. Lots of different programs. Blue Forest MOU is going forward to Town Council. Reminder – Reds Meadow road is going under construction thanks to a joint grant with federal partners. Fuels management – TOML got grant to support funding capacity structure with Whitebark. Also a grant for a bio-mass facility – great to have a place to process. INF still doing pile burns to reduce wildfire threat. Last meeting as Town Manager. Rob Patterson will be taking over.
 - ii. Andrew Mulford – equipment troubles re: grooming. Installed a new gate on Sherwin Creek Road to help with clearing. Looking forward to engaging on the Towns to Trails team.
 - iii. Lawson – attempted to film – Lake Mary Gate a troublesome area – partnering with MLT on how to park properly. Weather problems last week, hope to keep this going. Last week groomed Obsidian. Three grants in the pipeline – two related to MUPs, one on interp panels. Hope to hear something soon.
 - iv. Comment: Andrew Besold – Sunvalley Meadow has a good transportation program. Utilized by even the very wealthy.

7. State Updates

- a. California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force
 - i. 2023 Year in Review – focused on metrics and data. Update meeting coming soon
- b. Recreate Responsibly California
 - i. Meetings monthly – Tuesday’s 8am
- c. California State Budget Update
 - i. \$3-4 Billion shortage

8. Federal Updates



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- a. Government Shutdown update
 - i. March 1st/March 8th – possible government shutdown
- 9. **Next Meeting - First Monday of the Month @ 3:30**
 - a. Monday March 4, 2024 @ 3:30 Via Zoom