



Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)

Monday March 4, 2024 – 3:30 PM

Via ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88006162291?pwd=K2Y3REdyZkpTdHBYSiR0VjF3MzZ4QT09>

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

- a. The Storm
- b. Tuesday March 5 is Election Day
- c. Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Draft Strategic Plan
- d. Introducing Rob Patterson, new Town Manager, Town of Mammoth Lakes
- e. Farewell to Dan Holler, retiring Town Manager, Town of Mammoth Lakes
- f. Hot Links March 4, 2024

3. ESSRP MOU

- a. Signatory Updates

4. Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation: Regional Projects

- a. JLL + Visit California: Regional Tourism Strategic Plans / "High Sierra" Region
 - i. *Bethanie DeRose Executive Vice President JLL Hotels & Hospitality Group*
 - ii. Overview: Strategic Plan Development for 12 Regions – Each region uses a consistent methodology. This approach enables flexibility, and is more than marketing, extensive input effort.
 1. Recognize the nuance with each unique region
 2. Focused on Stakeholder Input – ESSRP has been a valuable group to connecting with groups and getting input
 - iii. Middle of Phase 4 – Demand Driver Assessment – specific assessment of leisure impacts, will aggregate results and look at the demand on a region.
 1. Review of DMO digital assets. Webinars coming up for broad engagement
 2. Sustainability Evaluation by Region
 - a. Resiliency + Sustainability Panel questionnaire underway
 3. Next Steps:
 - a. Demand Driver assessments
 - b. Leisure event assessments
 - c. Resiliency + Sustainability Score Card work underway
 - i. Upcoming panel review & consensus meeting



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- ii. Anticipated RAC review: May
 - d. Visit California Annual Outlook Forum **March 10 – 13**
 - 4. Questions:
 - a. D. Griffith - Before any final plan, will we get to review? Long history of outside agencies writing reports about the region without consulting those that live here.
 - i. Bethanie offers to do a follow-up with this group. Short answer – yes, and can find the right time to do it.
 - b. ESCOG: Sustainable Recreation + Ecosystem Management Program
 - i. Towns to Trails
 - 1. *Tim Bevins - Alta Planning*
 - ii. Buttermilk Infrastructure & Recreation Planning Initiative
 - 1. *Elaine Kabala – Executive Director, ESCOG*
 - iii. Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project
 - 1. *Laura Beardsley - Whitebark Institute, Executive Director*
 - iv. Eastern Sierra Biomass Facility
 - 1. *US Department of Energy, West Biofuels Grant Award*
 - 2. *Eastern Sierra CEDS: Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant*
 - v. ESCOG Meeting Update - *Elaine Kabala*
 - 1. Wednesday, February 28 in Mammoth Lakes
 - c. MLTPA Foundation
 - i. SRTI Visitor Connection Program - *with Whitebark Institute*
 - ii. Inyo National Forest Campgrounds: Pilot Projects
 - d. Recreate Responsibly California
 - e. California Jobs First / CERF: “Regional Strategy for Economic Development”
 - i. *“Capacity Enhancements for Eastern Sierra CA Jobs First (CERF)”*

5. Partner Insights and Updates in REVERSE Alphabetical Order

- a. Town of Mammoth Lakes
 - i. Rob Paterson, ML Town Manager - Biomass Fuel Facility – waiting to hear back from this process, ESCOG was helpful in some critical steps. Blizzard recovery.
 - ii. Lawson Reif – Office of Outdoor Recreation Mammoth Lakes – Trails are freshly groomed. Received 2-3 competitive bids for the Sherwin’s Trailhead for next summer. Otherwise prepping for the summer
- b. National Park Service



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- i. Rebecca Wong – Not much to report – Devil’s Postpile will be open Friday, Saturday, Sunday given Red’s Meadow road closure. Busy hiring
 - ii. Joe – Survived the blizzard, closed temporarily but back open now.
- c. Mono County
 - i. Wendilyn Grasseschi – Mono County Wildfire Coordinator – working on couple of fire safe councils. Getting some tanks for places that are difficult to get to. Working on “fire wise” community development. Collaborating on biomass facility. Crowley lake with green biomass re: 120-150 trees that came down.
 - ii. Marcella Rose – planning for summer. Bridgeport winter trails has been a winter focus. MoCo Rec is hiring a part-time project coordinator. Also opening Trail Steward Listing for trail crew, start time in late April
 - iii. Bob Gardner – great to have snowpack from this storm. Nice to have great reports from Wendy and Marcella, and think back to a few years ago when those positions did not exist.
 - iv. Linda Salcido – MOU between WRI, ESCCRP, Blue Forest and the group trying to help with the finance thinking. Nonbinding, nonfunded MOU, to look at forest bonds.
- d. Inyo National Forest, USFS
 - i. Taro Pusina – Effective March 11th Phil and Taro will take new Forest Rangers. Wildfire Stat is FS top priority – White Mtn and Whitney – started defensible space effort in nearby communities. Buttermilks – starting to collaborate on new advisory group. New Ranger in White Mtn. Planning on prescribed fire effort.
 - ii. AK – period of planning for the summer, grooming is happening. Having support from SQF to get more folks trained to do more. Submitted an OHV Ground Ops and Restoration grant. Adam Barnett was unavailable.
 - iii. Stephanie Heller – Introducing Dannon Dirgo, acting Deputy District Ranger
 - iv. Dannon Dirgo – acting dep district ranger for Mono Lake
- e. Inyo County
 - i. No one present
- f. HT National Forest, USFS
 - i. Brian Hansen – no updates – appreciate the ongoing MOU work
- g. ESCOG
 - i. Elaine Kabala - California Jobs First – moved into the second phase but looking for feedback on first phase of baseline information. Hopeful that next month will bring updates about how we’ll do some outreach to the region. Clarified that not looking to fund projects but fund an economic ecosystem. Recognition how unique the Sierra



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region is because of the relationship to federal lands, along with recreation being a economic driver.

h. City of Bishop – no one present

i. CALTRANS

i. Neil Peacock – MOU issue with DOT, is in the director's office. Working with ESTA, unmet needs transit process is taking place – this relates to TH buses. Regional Planner hired to work with ESCOG from an active transportation standpoint. June Lake Look Active Transport Plan – looking for delivery of alternatives and funding sources. Proposed redevelopment of Mammoth Lodge or relinquishment of 203 depending upon the TOML engagement. Neil Peacock, District 9 Planning Manager, 916-605-8034, Neil.Peacock@dot.ca.gov

j. BLM – No one present

k. Alpine County

- i. David Griffith – Cal Trans closure, Kirkwood is blocked off, assume it's avalanche-related
- ii. JT Chevallier – made the selection for a consultant to address planning work covering areas impacted by major fire. Excited to work with Marcella on Camp Like a Pro. Market at Markleeville – 5 events monthly may-sept. Conducting fire burning.
- iii. Bill Young – know Andy is anxious to talk about Towns-Trails. Shout out to Lawson for being helpful on special use permit for disc golf

6. State Updates

- a. California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force
- b. California State Budget Update

7. Federal Updates

- a. Government Shutdown

8. Next Meeting - First Monday of the Month @ 3:30

- a. Monday April 1, 2024 @ 3:30 Via Zoom