



Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP)

Monday April 8, 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
53 participants –[John Wentworth](#), [David Griffith](#), [Elizabeth Redman Cleveland](#), [Tim Bevins](#), [Aaron Wilcher](#), [AK, Alex Ertaud](#), [Allan Pietrasanta](#), [Amanda Carlson](#), [Amdrew Besold](#), [Ana Budnyk](#), [Andrew Mulford](#), [Andy Lovell](#), [Bob Gardner](#), [Brian Hansen](#), [Chris Bubser](#), [Danna Stroud](#), [Elaine Kabala](#), [Emily Bryant](#), [Erika Harvey](#), [James Balcom](#), [James Powell](#), [Jeff Simpson](#), [Jen Roeser](#), [Jennifer Kreitz](#), [John Dayberry](#), [JT Chevallier](#), [Kristy Williams](#), [Lawson Reif](#), [Rob Patterson](#), [Liz Grans](#), [Lynda Salcido](#), [Madison Kirshner](#), [Magnolia Barra](#), [Matt Driscoll](#), [Meryl Picard](#), [Philip Gross](#), [Rebecca Burgess](#), [Rick Kattelmann](#), [Sarah Winters](#), [Sherry Reckler](#), [Steve Frisch](#), [Stuart Brown](#), [Sherry Reckler](#), [Taner Bissonette](#), [Chelsea Taylor](#), [JT Chevallier](#), [John Dayberry](#), [JD George](#), [Liz Grans](#), [Taro Pusina](#), [Joe Meyer](#), [Rebecca Carr Wong](#), [SBC](#) (had 1-3 signed in) 5302103434, 9705090126

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Welcome + Housekeeping

- Love Hurts. Loving Skiing Hurts More.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board Meeting - June 5 + 6, 2024 in Inyo County
- Farewell to Stacy Corless - Government & Community Affairs Director, Sierra Business Council
- Welcome Rebecca Burgess - Executive Director, Fibershed
- Welcome Westside CA Jobs First Partners
- Hot Links April 8, 2024
- California Jobs First: Context of the Day

3. Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation: Regional Projects

- JLL + Visit California: Regional Tourism Strategic Plans / "High Sierra" Region
 - Visit California campaign: "California is the Ultimate Playground"
 - Follow up / focused content meetings in late May, dates TBD
- ESCOG: Sustainable Recreation + Ecosystem Management Program
 - Towns to Trails
 - [Tim Bevins - Alta Planning](#)
 - [Question from Andrew Besold – offered insight into Bike Route 85, wondering about overlap. Can provide details. James Powell – looking at preliminary 85 alignment – is that on-street? We are trying to stay away from pavement, where we do want/need we can try to connect. Andrew – would like to see a lot of that routed away from 395.](#)

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- ii. Buttermilk Infrastructure & Recreation Planning Initiative
 - 1. Elaine Kabala – Executive Director, ESCOG
 - 2. Discussion about how to integrate recommendations from public into next steps. Consensus management group will determine what actions can be implemented on a near-term basis without going into full NEPA process.
 - iii. Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project
 - 1. CAL FIRE \$7m Grant Announcement
 - a. Funding for highest priorities. Would begin next year, for three years. Major increment in whole ESCCRP.
 - 2. Eastern Sierra Biomass Facility
 - a. Janet Hatfield - Whitebark Institute, Executive Director
 - b. Grant funding diminished – but going through stipulations.
 - iv. ESCOG Items of Interest to California Jobs First
 - 1. Regional Air Service + Eastern Sierra Air Alliance
 - 2. Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium
- c. MLTPA Foundation
- i. SRTI Visitor Connection Program - with Whitebark Institute
 - ii. Inyo National Forest Campground Pilot Projects
 - iii. Recreate Responsibly California
 - iv. California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience
 - 1. From Chat: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2024/03/08/california-jobs-first-state-launches-first-of-its-kind-council-to-create-thousands-of-more-jobs-across-all-regions/>

2. California Jobs First

- a. Letter of Concern addressed to Sierra Business Council and response
 - i. Steve Frisch – you have a lot of documents in the attachments. Some of the concerns are specifically addressed re: to improving the process. Going to dramatically ramp up community outreach. Most important thing for participants is to show up for April 25th.
 - 1. Some confusion about regional summary, strat plan, project funding.
 - 2. It would be short sited to look at this process as solely about projects. The intent this process will create a strat for the region, that can be worked on by all of us to advance over the next decade. The funding available is substantial but is small in terms of regional investment. The idea behind strategic plan is to look at the

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- [alignment bet CJF investment, and all the other things on this call, with access to state and fed funding.](#)
3. Looking for input between now and July
- ii. Erika – hope to see everyone from April 25th-26th
1. [Would love to see land managers and SNC](#)
2. [Haven't gotten much feedback on the regional summary made available in Dec. – form via SBC website.](#)
- iii. <https://sierrajobsfirst.org/>
- iv. Sierra Business Council 4:22 PM - We invite you to RSVP to April 25 & 26 here: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IltOI_E7WkejoOZcxtaVwDnc2Af9QhFoOC2FhN_eoJUNUpITVMYRINZMzNEMVI5SDRXM0paWVFVTS4u
1. Correction: Reimbursed at the Federal Rate
- v. David Griffith, Alpine Co. 4:23 PM - If you don't participate in the April session in Lake Tahoe you lose your right to complain if you aren't happy with the result.
- b. Sierra Jobs First Strategy Workshops April 25 + 26
- i. Erika Harvey - Director, Economic Empowerment, Sierra Business Council

4. Partner Insights and Updates in Alphabetical Order

- a. Alpine County – David Griffith – Thanks for John, Erika, Steve
- i. [JT Chevallier – Second annual arbor day on April 26th – in BLM area in Tamarak. Launched are you Alpine media campaign – defining who and what Alpine County is. Reached out to RCRC to talk about assistance with EV charging and implementation in Alpine Co. CEDS implementation team is making good headway. Western Sierra – part of Central Sierra Econ Dev district – hiring a Manager will deploy central Sierra CEDS](#)
1. <https://www.alpinecounty.com/are-you-alpine>
2. https://www.mlit.org/files/ugd/c4ac4f_64cb22bf53ff4aa7b469b0bb925008c8.pdf
- b. BLM – Philip Gross
- i. [Rec on BLM – opening Crowley and other campground just before fishing season.](#)
- ii. [Adding hotsprings to the Adopt-a-Trail program.](#)
- iii. [Final resto upgrades to travertine hotsprings](#)
- iv. [Alabama Hills trail updates – put over 900 hrs to rebuild a half-mile sect with Americorps](#)
- v. [New law enforcement ranger](#)
- c. CALTRANS – Andrew Besold
- i. [Official application from Adventure Cycling – supervisor would like to have an addendum to CATP – CA Active Transportation Plan. May hold off and see about the Towns-to-Trails plan.](#)



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[New plan would look at active transport system – hoping to guide bike traffic off public transportation.](#)

d. City of Bishop – [No one was present](#)

e. HT National Forest, USFS – [Brian Hansen – nothing major to update](#)

f. Inyo County – [Jen Roeser –](#)

i. [Buttermilk working group – ID a number of subcommittees and many are jumpin on. Inyo County Board of Sup. in response to community, is responding to need in rec industry in re: to mule deer herds and mountain lines – since fish and game is holding a meeting in June in Mammoth we want to bring awareness to the big horn sheep recovery program.](#)

ii. [Insurance crisis in CA – tune into recording of little Hoover.](#)

iii. [Adventure trails – pilot program supported by legislator, will be sunseting this year. Convened a working group to talk about how to handle this sunseting and next steps. Might be a possible solution for managing OHV uses.](#)

g. Inyo National Forest, USFS –

i. [Taro Pusina – Excited about buttermilk collaborative. Developing purpose and need statements pertaining to roads and user based trails. NEPA for OHV Coyote – have a number of specialist reports. Excited about the WBI grant. Specific area that grant will cover include mechanical fuel reduction in the lakes basin, short staffed in visitor centers and looking to partners for support.](#)

ii. [Fred Wong – Reds Meadow Road – TOML, NPS, FS, Fed Hwys – decided on closure times, more restrictive because the project won't get done. June 7th – Sept 15th will only open on the weekends. Reds Meadow Reconstruction Project: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/alerts-notice/?cid=fseprd1127643>](#)

iii. [AK - My updates are brief, thanks for the opportunity, I mentioned last meeting that we were pursuing employees through American Conservation Experience, we were successful in filling those positions, we are still short but in a better position we'd have been in otherwise, the concession is opening the first of our facilities next week, April 19, with many more following the next week, and lastly, we have an opportunity for those seeking employment with the USDA Forest Service, we are looking for a Resource Assistant \(RA\) in Special Uses, they will be hired through Environment for the Americas, if you are unfamiliar the RA will work an eight month term, that includes a living allowance \(\\$1000 per month\), professional development funds and will receive \\$750/week, upon completion of the term the RA will be eligible for non-competitive placement into a position within the USDA Forest Service, apologies, again, for the technical difficulties. Link to the RA position \[Special Uses Permit Administration - ONSITE - Inyo National Forest, Supervisors Office, Region 5 - Environment for the Americas \\(environmentamericas.org\\)\]\(#\)](#)

h. [Mono County](#)

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- i. Marcella Rose – online today MoCo hired a new project coordinator to help with grant implementation and coordination Johnny De George
 - 1. Still hiring trail stewards – have two of our three staff – hoping to do interviews this week.
 - 2. CLAP is reving up- starting to discuss the placement of temp infrastructure. Sent emails to ed subcommittee. Filming video of dispersed campsite selection. MLT and Alpine Co have donated a lot of money to CLAP fund for these projects. Recruiting subcommittee members.
 - 3. Adopt a trail – filmed a video for orientation – tangle free waters In Hoover wilderness – lots of work happening in the northern counties
 - 4. Collaborating to support staffing
 - 5. CSA 1 for some connector trails in S. County. Being presented later this month.
 - 6. Working in Mono Basin on education campaigns to get OHV users to slow down and be legal.
 - 7. Conway Ranch is an interp trail and signage – CR Management Plan was just completed – May 8th in Lee Vining
- ii. Bob Gardner – June mountain closes next Sunday on the 14th – good crowds. Fishing season opens soon after. Would be great to get some campgrounds open in time for fishing season to kick off. Short-term rental discussion happened last week. The study provided a lot of data for nonincorporated MoCo. Looking at the opening of Tioga Rd.
- i. National Park Service –
 - i. Joe Meyer – Tioga Rd – Friday April 19th at 1 pm – tentative date/time. Will plan on a meeting for this and have all the appropriate folks present. Same type of meeting as in the past.
 - 1. Summer Pilot is about to begin – reservation system. Different from previous summers but not that much – April 13th – res needed on weekends. July 1st-aug 16 res needed all days of the week. Aug 17th – end of season, res needed just on weekends again. Visit FAQ on webpage is solid and robust, please share.
 - 2. Visitor access management plan – working on this for a long time. Had two public engagement periods. Another public engagement period as part of NEPA process.
 - 3. Andrew Besold – is there a cycling day for the opening of the Tioga pass?
 - a. Depends – but it's too early to tell. It's a great experience but unsure.
 - b. Andrew would promote if it works out.
 - ii. Rebecca Carr Wong – hiring for the upcoming season, contracting for the replacement of our primary bathrooms. Ppl might have to use porta potty's. Looking for housing for seasonal staff.
- i. Town of Mammoth Lakes

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- i. [Andrew Mulford – Still grooming trails at shady rest and sherwins – long season. Still hiring hosts, let folks know. Marcella mentioned we have volunteer orientation. Normal mammoth trails meeting 6-8.](#)
- ii. [Rob Patterson – TOML submitted to fund high priority acres \(\\$50 million \). Today in LTC meeting Cal Trans gave an update that they were going to have a hard closure of 395 between 108 and Burchum flat – large culvert for animal crossing – for 10 days.](#)
- iii. [Great meeting with Fred Wong about strengthening partnership](#)
- k. [Meryl Picard – not prepared – Gloriana no longer with the Tribe. Be patient while we cover that role for our Tribe.](#)

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

- a. Monday May 6, 2024 @ 3:30 Via Zoom