

CA Jobs First Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Cohort

Quick recap

The April meeting of the Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Cohort focused on preparations for the upcoming Symposium of Practice on April 23rd in Sacramento. John and Calder presented details about the symposium's goals, which include creating an incentive structure to implement recreation and tourism projects, sharing lessons learned across projects, and developing recommendations for state and federal agencies to continue collaborative work beyond the Jobs First program ending in August-September. The symposium will bring together project representatives and agency representatives to discuss challenges across six "filters": assets, policy and regulations, funding, data, climate change, workforce, and collaboratives. The meeting also covered upcoming April events including the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership meeting, various advocacy days in Sacramento, and the California Outdoor Recreation Partnership's lobby day. Participants discussed the importance of sustaining collaborative work beyond Jobs First funding and the need to address policy and regulatory barriers that affect smaller organizations differently than larger agencies.

Summary

Sustainable Recreation Cohort Meeting

The meeting began with Calder welcoming participants to the April session of the Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Cohort. John mentioned an upcoming ESSRP meeting on Monday and offered to share details via email. Shavati shared information about the Nevada County Recreation Fair on April 25th. The group then prepared to discuss symposium practice slides, with Calder indicating they were ready to present the slide deck.

ESSRP Meeting Overview

John provided an overview of the upcoming Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) meeting on Monday at 3:30 PM, highlighting key topics including federal updates, regional projects, and state legislation. He mentioned that the meeting will focus on information sharing among partners rather than creating a large recreation bureaucracy, with

about 10-15 public-public partners expected to participate. The discussion also touched on various April events, including the Nevada County Recreation Fair and an upcoming Symposium of Practice on April 23rd.

Symposium of Practice Planning Meeting

The meeting focused on planning the Symposium of Practice, a culminating event for the current cohort. John and Calder outlined the event's goals, which include creating an incentive structure for recreation and tourism projects, engaging state and federal agencies, and sustaining collaborative work post-Jobs First funding. They discussed bringing together project representatives and agency representatives to address challenges in implementation, policy, funding, and other areas. The leadership team is working on identifying specific projects and refining symposium filters to guide discussions. The event is scheduled to take place in Sacramento, with plans to follow up with attendees next week.

Cross-Sector Event Planning Collaboration

The meeting focused on planning for an upcoming event on the 23rd, with discussions about collaboration between outdoor recreation, tourism, and arts and culture sectors. Jonathan highlighted how federal funding challenges are affecting multiple sectors, including arts, culture, and humanities, and emphasized the importance of solidarity and collaboration at the state level. Calder and Anne discussed the intersection of arts and outdoor recreation, with Calder noting the need to reevaluate state spending in light of reduced federal support. The group reviewed initial filters for the event, with Austin asking for feedback on their relevance and accuracy.

Project Filters and Sustainability Strategies

The group discussed the importance of creating filters and strategies to view projects, particularly focusing on policies, regulations, funding, and sustainability. Key concerns included how to sustain work beyond September and ensure long-term collaboration, with John and Calder emphasizing the need for a living advocacy document to guide future efforts. Jonathan highlighted the importance of aligning requests for funding with policy changes, while Calder and others stressed the value of cross-regional collaboration and addressing equity in state systems. Upcoming events in April, including advocacy summits and the symposium, were noted, with plans to share insights and updates at the next meeting in May.