

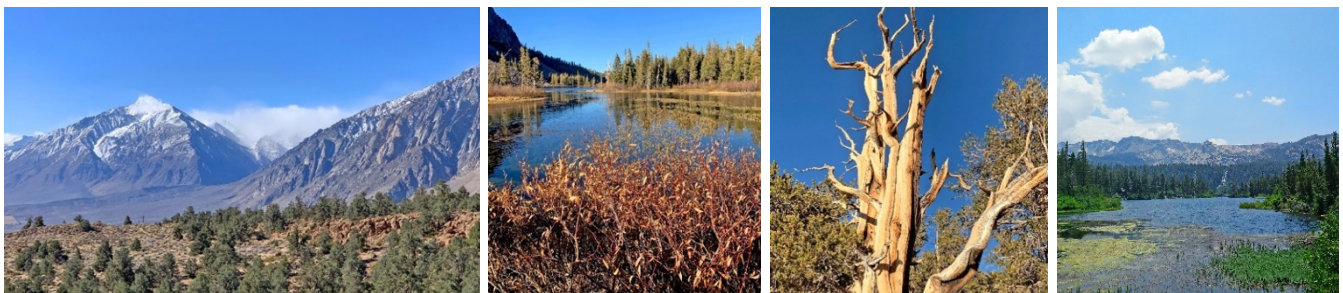
# Recommended Actions

The Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative (SRTI) is an effort funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support the outdoor recreation economy and natural resources of the Eastern Sierra region. The initiative has four tracks, or areas of focus, including a Climate Adaptation & Resilience Assessment. The Project Team for this assessment included an inter-disciplinary technical consulting team and the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation who worked together to produce a final report entitled “A Changing Climate | Vulnerability in California’s Eastern Sierra.”

The Project Team developed a set of Recommended Actions for the SRTI Study Area to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change-related hazards and increase opportunities for sustainable, resilient recreation in the short-and long-term. These Recommended Actions are based on the results of regional analyses of how the regional ecosystem and recreation economy may be affected by climate change, state and federal guidance, feedback from regional stakeholders, and current resources. The five Recommended Actions are:

- SRTI Climate: Funding-Ready Projects
- SRTI Climate: Regional Asset Inventory
- SRTI Climate: Gap Assessment
- SRTI Climate: Sustainable Infrastructure Master Plan
- SRTI Climate: Sustainable Recreation Outreach and Education

Along with these Recommended Actions, the Project Team and has also developed a screening tool to evaluate specific proposed SRTI projects and actions, including those from the other three SRTI tracks, for their ability to support climate resilience and to be implemented effectively.



# Recommended Actions

The screening tool helps assess if a proposed project will support the goals of the SRTI and efforts of key regional stakeholders. These screening criteria include:

**Protection for  
vulnerable  
people and  
assets**

**Connections  
with federal,  
state, and local  
land**

**Potential for  
funding from  
FEMA or other  
sources**

**Support for  
ecosystem  
benefits and  
recreation**

**Integration with  
existing  
infrastructure**

**Resilience  
features of the  
proposed project**

There are three central goals for the five Recommended Actions developed by the Project Team and other projects and efforts evaluated through the screening tool:

- » Steward, protect, and conserve natural and cultural resources.
- » Identify and enhance opportunities for sustainable recreation.
- » Improve critical infrastructure and emergency response systems to create climate-resilient communities.

The Recommended Actions are provided in an “umbrella” format, each including multiple smaller tasks or projects that incorporate the results from other tracks in the SRTI. This format builds off of the results of the other tracks in the SRTI effort, while addressing climate change vulnerabilities, to create a comprehensive set of implementable projects in the Study Area.

# SRTI Climate: Funding-Ready Projects

The Funding Ready Projects include projects that have climate resiliency and/or sustainability co-benefits, providing these beneficial features along with sustainable recreation improvements. They have been identified by the SRTI “Recreation Stakeholders” or proposed by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and other regional partners. These projects are ready to fund plan preparation, permitting, or construction.



To identify as a Funding Ready Project, a project must meet three criteria, at a minimum: 1) have a defined location, 2) include steps that can be funded, and 3) provide or include physical structures or hazard-reduction programs. Funding Ready Projects are intended to be implemented in the short-term (one to five years) as funding becomes available through federal, state, or public-private partnership sources.

Timeframe	One to five years
Potential Funding	Federal and state programs, grant funding, funding via partnerships

## Example Projects:

	Wildfire fuel reduction program <i>Enhances resilience</i>		Evacuation route mapping and signage <i>Enhances resilience</i>
	Buttermilk Climbing Area Recreation Plan <i>Supports sustainable recreation</i>		Markleeville EV Charging Station <i>Improves existing infrastructure</i>

# SRTI Climate: Regional Asset Inventory

The Regional Asset Inventory will document buildings, infrastructure, and related assets for all jurisdictions located within the SRTI Study Area. This would include spatial data for mapping purposes and an inventory of asset components for the creation of a database. The inventory will focus on physical, natural, and historic and cultural assets to establish a baseline of understanding for key Study Area conditions while protecting the location of any sensitive sites.

Asset inventory components could include:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Managing Entity</b>
<b>Natural features</b>	<b>Historic significance</b>	<b>Current condition</b>
<b>Date of construction</b>	<b>Resilience features</b>	<b>Recreational features and benefits</b>

Timeframe	One year
Potential Funding	Federal and state programs, grant funding, funding via partnerships

# SRTI Climate: Gap Assessment

When the region’s infrastructure was built, builders likely did not consider the threats created by climate change or the pressures placed on regional infrastructure from increased recreation and tourism. The Gap Assessment looks to address this need, making sure that regional infrastructure will continue to meet needs in the SRTI Study Area for years and decades to come.

The Gap Assessment should follow the completion of the Regional Asset Inventory. It should identify current and future needs that are not met by existing regional assets. These gaps should consider current and future sustainable recreation activities and projected impacts from climate change.

The Gap Assessment will help determine new assets that will be needed to meet anticipated demand. It will also consider repairs and renovations to existing assets to improve their performance and ensure that they are being maintained in order to best support the region’s needs.

The Gap Assessment should incorporate access and equity as a key component, recognizing that vulnerable populations may be at a disadvantage accessing recreation areas.



Timeframe	One year after the Regional Asset Inventory
Potential Funding	Federal and state programs, grant funding, funding via partnerships



# SRTI Climate: Sustainable Infrastructure Master Plan

A Sustainable Infrastructure Master Plan should build off of the Gap Assessment. It should lay out a recommended set of Infrastructure Improvement Projects and Programs to help address the gaps identified in the regional infrastructure and focus on making sure these projects and programs are implemented. This master plan would be a dynamic document that could be updated regularly as projects are completed and new projects arise to meet the needs of future sustainable recreation.

The Sustainable Infrastructure Master Plan should include:



The list of Infrastructure Improvement Projects and Programs should include details such as:



As identified by the Gap Assessment, the Sustainable Infrastructure Master Plan should lay out plans for new infrastructure as well as repairs, renovations, and expansion to existing infrastructure.

Timeframe	Two years for plan development, five to 30 years for implementation
Potential Funding	Federal and state programs, grant funding, funding via partnerships

# SRTI Climate: Sustainable Recreation Outreach and Education

Sustainable Recreation Outreach and Education programs should be included in the SRTI “Visitor Connection Package” to educate residents, visitors, and workers about Sustainable Recreation and Stewardship, tribal culture, climate change hazards, and historical and interpretive opportunities within the SRTI Study Area.

Residents, workers, and visitors are the primary audience. Each audience may have a different relationship to the SRTI Study Area resources, so the educational content should reflect this diversity.

In addition to areas of focus already identified in the SRTI “Visitor Connection Package”, educational content/activities should focus on climate change adaptation, community resilience, and related information, as both standalone and supportive materials in addition to sustainable recreation and tourism, tribal history/culture, and historical/interpretive focused materials. The education program’s messaging materials should easily integrate into existing educational content and support initiatives of other partners within the Study Area.

Implementation actions should include:

1. **Data Gathering** to collect and inventory existing educational materials currently available from agencies/entities within the SRTI Study Area.
2. **Vision and Purpose Development** for the education program that defines the key values and principles used for development of materials and messaging.
3. **Materials Development** that focuses on educational materials for all audiences.
4. **Materials Review and Rollout** which should rely on an Education Program Team working with the SRTI “Visitor Connection Package” that includes key SRTI Study Area stakeholders.

Timeframe	12 to 18 months for materials, three years for disseminating information
Potential Funding	Federal and state programs, grant funding, funding via partnerships