

# RFFCP East Subregion Stakeholder Meeting #2

## Meeting Summary

Wednesday, October 28, 2020



### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The second Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) East subregion stakeholder meeting comprised local, regional, and federal stakeholders. The goal of the meeting was to begin considering project ideas and a project prioritization process. The meeting started with an introduction of the host group the Eastern California Water Association (ECWA), the RFFCP East team, and the participants who are listed below.

#### Participants

- Holly Alpert, Contractor – Eastern California Water Association
- Marlon Charneau, Sierra Corps/Eastern California Water Association/American Forests
- Rick Kattelmann, Eastern California Water Association
- Anna Belle Monti, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
- Steven Howell, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
- Greta Mettauer, Wheeler Crest Fire Safe Council
- Amelia Motroni, Wheeler Crest Fire Safe Council
- Kelley Williams, Inyo County Office of Emergency Services
- Kimra McAfee, Alpine Watershed Group
- Mel Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe
- Natalie Morrow, Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District
- Heather Stone, Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Field Office
- Justin Nalder, Mono County
- Joe Dell, Bishop Fire Department
- Jeff Griffiths, Inyo County
- Rhiana Jones, Washoe Tribe
- Janet Hatfield, Plumas Corporation
- Bob Gardner, Mono County
- Erin Noesser, Inyo National Forest
- Sandra Jacobson, California Trout
- Elissa Brown, Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Jerry Keir, Great Basin Institute
- Jora Fogg, Friends of the Inyo
- Matt Driscoll, Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Meagan Montalto, American Forests

- Rubie Teffeteller, American Forests

## **2. Update on activities since July 2020 meeting**

Holly provided an overview of the RFFCP team’s activities and program development that have taken place since the July 2020 stakeholder meeting. This included an update about the “working from the home outward” program, county-level fire coordinator positions, the Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project, workforce development crews, a contractors list, grants database, and the website that is now live! Check it out at <http://eswildfirealliance.org/>.

Action Item: RFFCP staff will reach out to individual stakeholders about hosting webpages on the websites.

## **3. Project solicitation process**

Holly then transitioned to the project solicitation process and described the reasoning behind identifying priority projects for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and Great Basin Institute (GBI). Elissa Brown of the SNC further explained the importance of getting projects shovel ready so that when funding is made available the region is ready to apply. Holly explained that the RFFCP team developed the project list through referring to various planning documents and soliciting projects directly from stakeholders.

## **4. Presentation by Great Basin Institute**

GBI executive director Jerry Keir gave a presentation on the organization’s scope of work for the RFFC Program and on the technical assistance it could provide to the prioritized projects selected by the region. This includes consultations with planners and specialists, analysis support, survey design and implementation, GIS products, and document preparation. If you are interested in the presentation, please contact one of the RFFCP staff members, and we will gladly send it over to you.

The presentation led to dialogue about how to best integrate all communities represented in the eastern Sierra subregion into this project process. There was acknowledgement that incorporating Alpine County into the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) would improve coordination and communication among Alpine, Mono, and Inyo counties. Furthermore, it was recognized that a consolidated group could improve administration efficiencies and funding opportunities down the road. Finally, mapping community projects through the development of a regional GIS was discussed as a tool to improve coordination among stakeholders.

## **5. Process and criteria**

Following Jerry’s presentation, the meeting segued into discussing the development of a process and criteria to review and prioritize projects. There is immediate need to identify projects that could benefit from GBI’s services, and there is the larger need to identify and prioritize projects for future project development and funding opportunities. After conversing about the many different needs in the diverse communities, it was determined that a subcommittee was needed to do research and development recommendation about criteria and the project prioritization process.

Natalie Morrow of Mammoth Fire Protection District, Sandi Jacobson of CalTrout, Janet Hatfield of Plumas Corp., and Holly, Rick, and Marlon of the RFFCP team volunteered to form the subcommittee.

(After the meeting, Kelley Williams of the Inyo County Office of Emergency Services and Brittany Dyer of American Forests also volunteered).

Anyone is welcome to join if desired. **Please contact any of the RFFCP team members to be included in the next subcommittee meeting.**

The first task of the subcommittee will be to review the current project list and identify opportunities for GBI's work. The subcommittee will develop a recommendation to bring back to the full stakeholder group for a decision within about a month.

If there are any questions, comments, or concerns about the meeting, please contact any of the RFFCP team members and they will gladly assist you with more information.