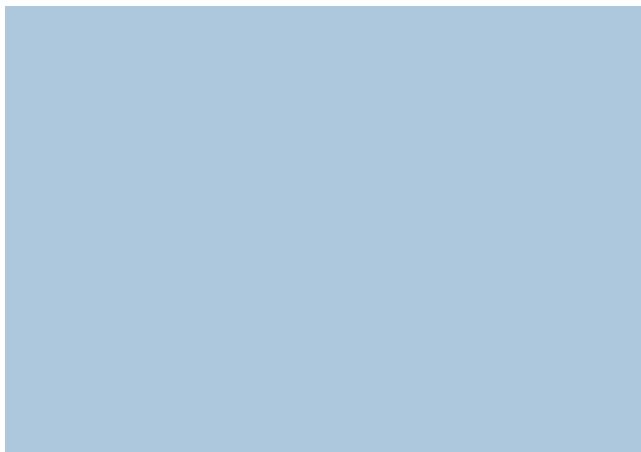
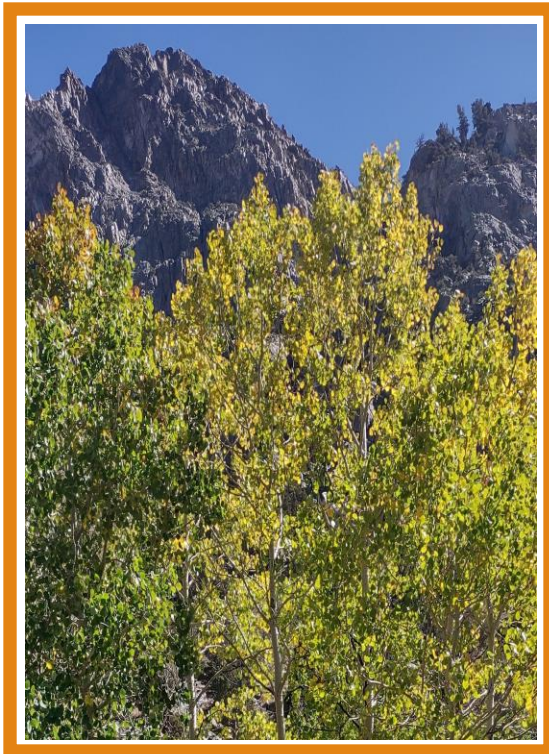
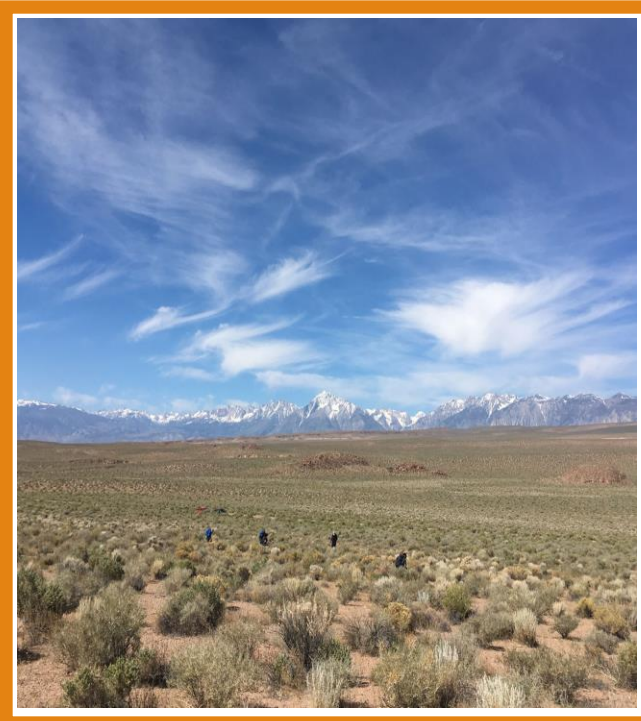




EASTERN SIERRA WILDFIRE ALLIANCE

OCTOBER 16, 2025



Introductions

Host:

Laura Beardsley, Executive Director, Whitebark Institute

Meeting Facilitator: Stacy Corless

Zoom Team: Kristen Pfeiler, ESCOG/Inyo County Wildfire Coordinator; Annie Crowley & Heidi Porras, Whitebark Institute

Meeting Agenda

Introduction

- Meeting agreements and goals
- Recap recent ESWA efforts and progress

Subcommittee Presentations & Discussions

- Governance
- Communications
- Projects

Partner Projects & Updates

- ESCOG Community Defense Grant
- Regional Priority Plan

Reflections & Next Steps

Meeting Agreements



Raise your hand/wait to be called on before speaking and state your name



Be mindful of Zoom format (stay muted when not speaking, use chat, etc)



Treat people with respect



All ideas are valuable



Actively participate

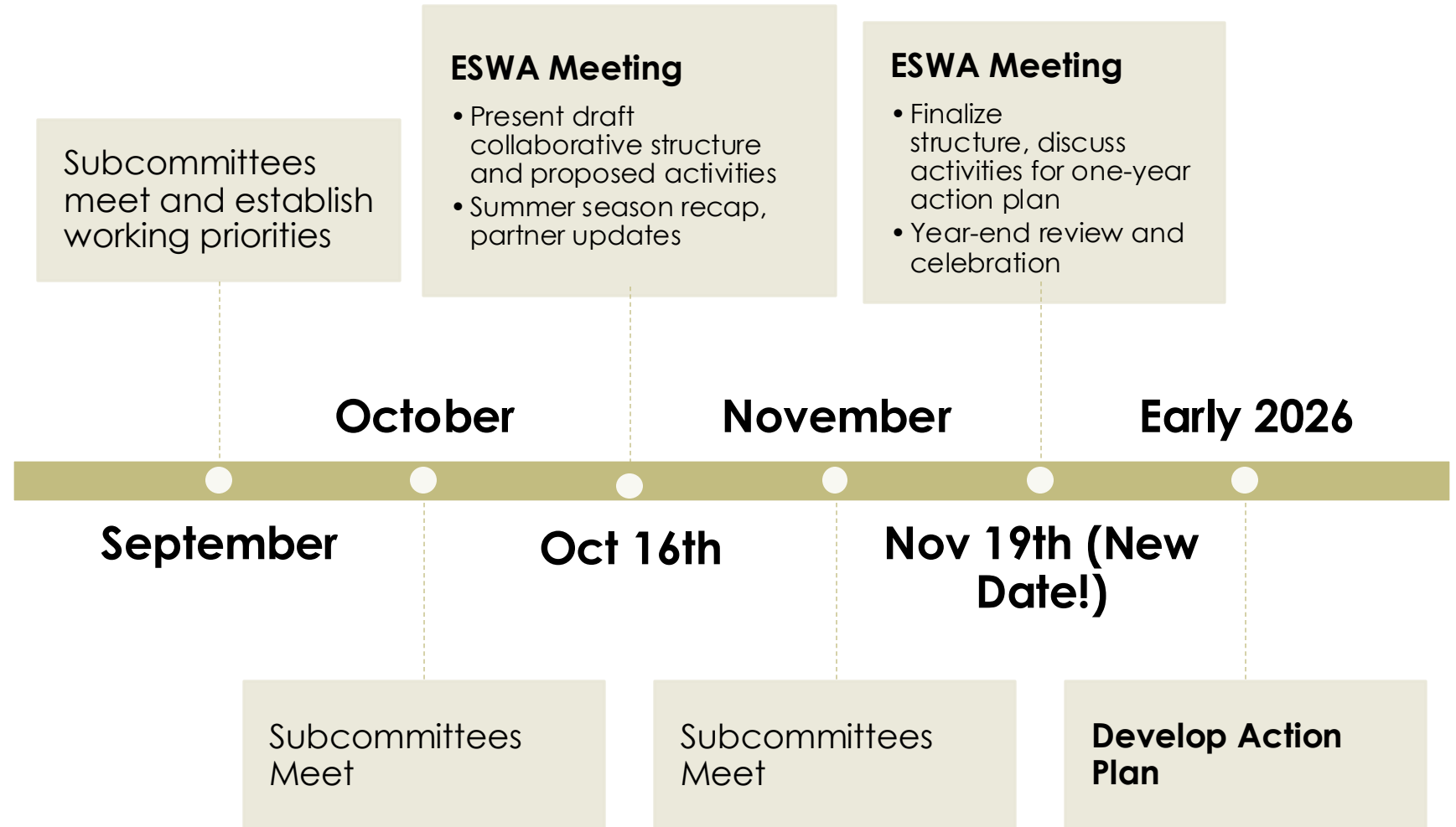


Be willing to reach consensus



Avoid/explain acronyms

ESWA 2025 Timeline





Governance Subcommittee

Recap

September 18 Full ESWA Outcomes to Build On:

- Collaborative Focus
 - Both Communities & Landscapes
- Decision-making
 - Modified consensus model
- Organizational Structure
 - Steering Committee, sub-committees, membership, etc.
- Non-binding documentation of partnership
 - Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement
 - Recommend key elements from other collaborative models
 - Documents/ outlines: Focus, Structure, Decision-making
- Tribal Inclusion & Partnership
 - Need to work on this

Gov. Subcommittee Recommendations

Organizational Structure

- Steering Committee: smaller group that handles administrative issues, meeting preparation, routine decisions
- General membership w/ regular open meetings
- Sub-committees or working groups, topic-focused

Decision-Making

- Consensus-seeking
- Defined objection criteria

Membership/ Partnership Documentation

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Non-binding
- Include Federal Partners
- Outlines: Focus, Structure, Membership, Meetings, Decision-making, etc

Tribal Inclusion & Partnership

- Share ESWA work with individual tribes
- Work to improve inclusion and representation

Org Structure

Examples from other regional collaboratives:

Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions

- Leadership Team
- Working Groups
- Full Coalition Mtgs Bi-monthly

Bi-state Sage Grouse Local Area Working Group

- Executive Committee
- Technical Oversight Committee
- Tribal Natural Resource Council

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group

- Subject Matter Working Groups (4) including administration
- Monthly general meetings

North Yuba Forest Partnership

- Steering Committee
- Consensus by 9 Partner Groups

Org Structure

1. **Do you support the Steering Committee concept?**
2. **What topics should working groups/subcommittees focus on? (and do you like working group or subcommittee better?)**
3. **What ideas do you have for meeting structure and frequency?**
 - General Meetings
 - Open to public?
 - Quarterly or bi-monthly?
 - Include updates, voting/decision-making, field trips? Anything else?

What decisions will ESWA make?

- Near-term foundational issues for development of the collaborative
- Project prioritization, inclusion
- Policy, issue support

Does ESWA support a consensus-seeking approach?

- Establish consensus voting guidelines: Consensus ranges from support to abstain or stand aside; Set time frame for voting and decision-making
- Establish approval process for "consent" items
- Members can use an established blocking criteria and process to delay decision if they cannot stand aside or abstain

Blocking Criteria: What works for ESWA?

- Blocking criteria are the rules or standards by which a member can stop or delay a decision
- Criteria should be clear, limited and reflect the groups mission and values
- Criteria discussed by governance committee: Tribal request, local impact

Agreement

Assumptions

- Nonbinding beyond the scope of collaborative membership (you can leave)
- No financial commitment
- Agreement and organizational structure are adaptive—they can change as ESWA's needs change
- Formal agreements exist among partners for project implementation, planning, etc (example: Whitebark Institute and Inyo National Forest for ESCCRP implementation)

Should the **Governance Subcommittee** continue working on...

- Memorandum of Understanding for ESWA membership?
- Assure the MOU allows for federal land management agencies to join?
- Have the MOU contain:
 - Purpose and scope
 - Guiding Principles, Mission/Vision/Goals
 - Organizational Structure, Member Roles and Responsibilities
 - Decision-Making Process



Communications Subcommittee

Subcommittee

Recap

- **Committee Goals:**
 - Identify communication gaps and make recommendations for internal communications tools and platforms
- **Current Committee Tasks**
 - Consider internal communications gaps and needs
 - Contact List
 - Partner Updates
 - Grant Collaboration

Comms Subcommittee Recommendations

Contact Database

- Collaborate with Projects Subcommittee to develop comprehensive contact database

Partner Updates

- Streamline partner updates by gathering them through a form and distributing them in a regular newsletter.

Grant Collaboration

- Standing Agenda Item for grant opportunities

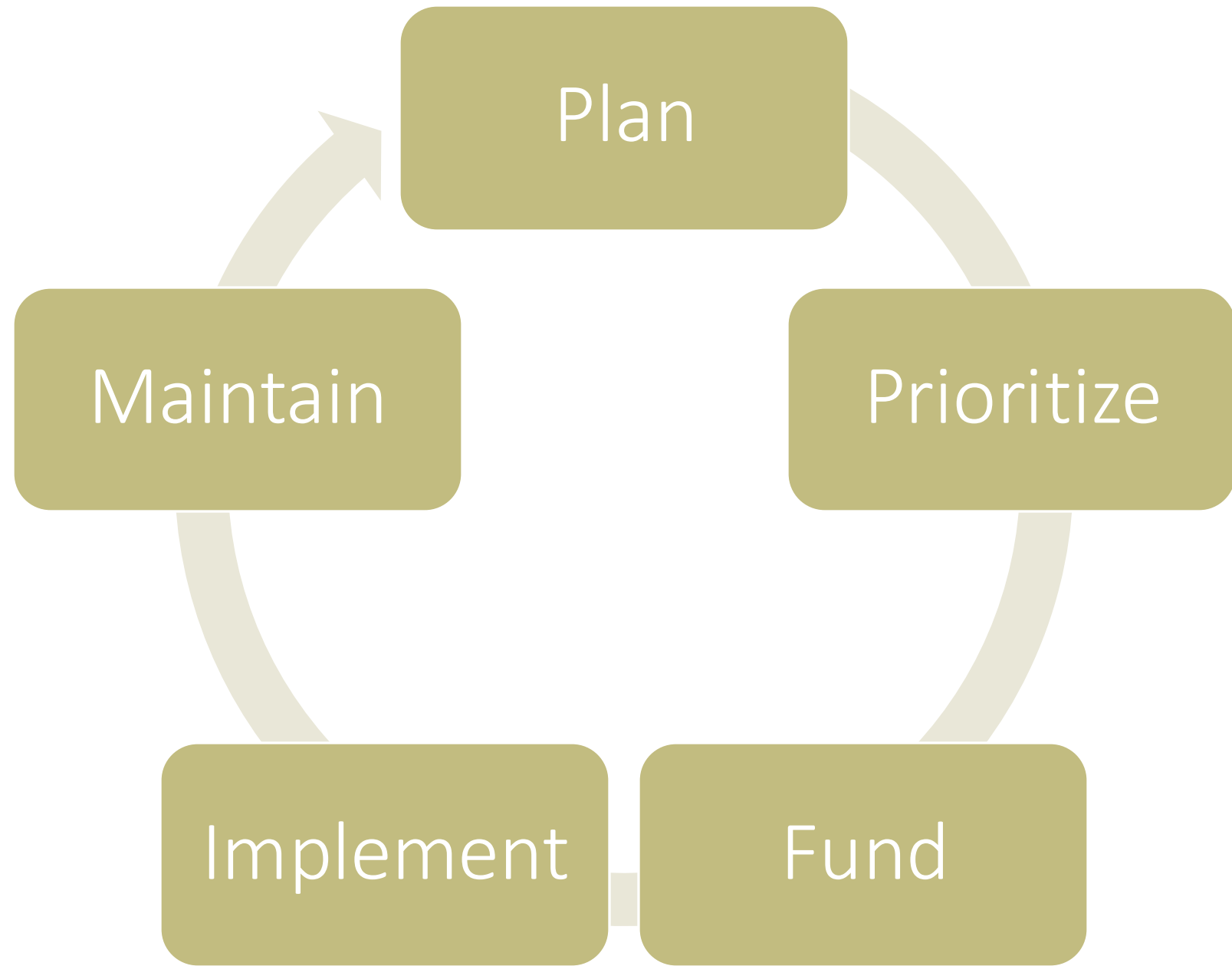
Questions for Discussion

- What partner updates are most relevant for you to hear or share with ESWA?
 - Example: Project Highlights, Lessons Learned, Upcoming Events and Opportunities, etc
- What do you expect from ESWA to support grant collaboration?
 - Example: Grant Announcements, Stand-alone working groups, asynchronous discussion platforms, etc



Project Subcommittee

Create a Living Tool

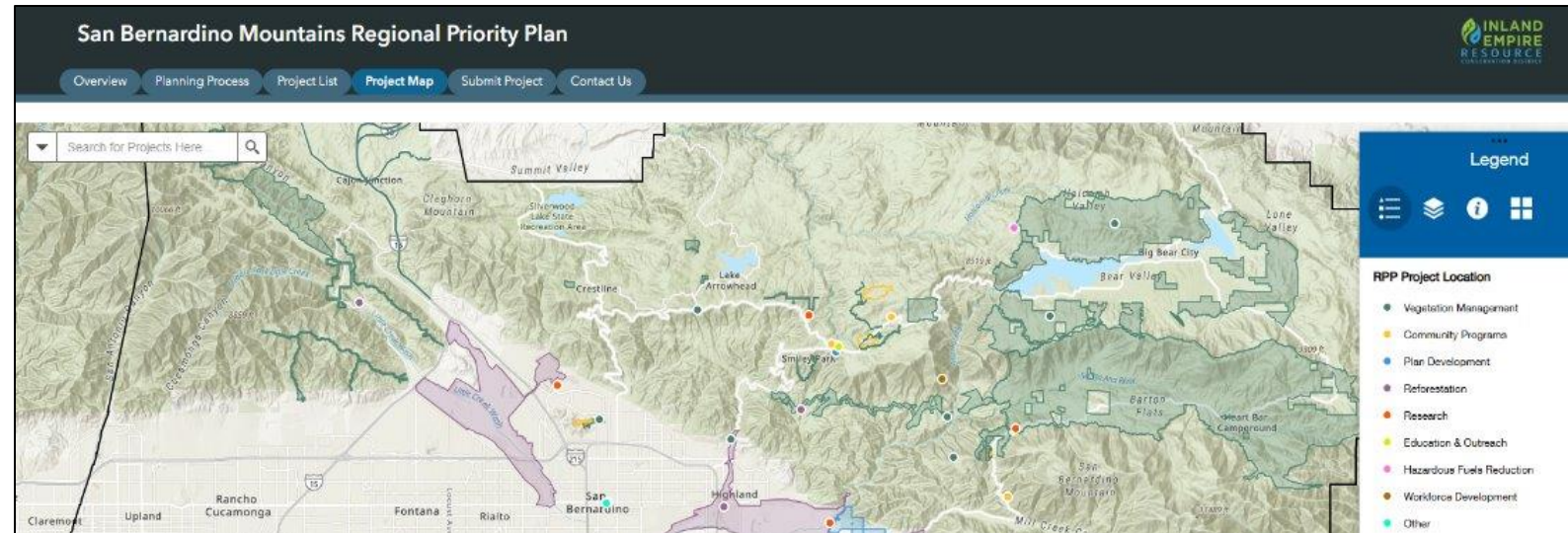


Committee Tasks

- ✓ Identify projects
- ✓ Identify lists (needs, concepts, active)
- ✓ Define attributes
- ✓ Establish inclusion criteria

Demo

- We have been developing our dashboard which combines mapping using Arc GIS Experience Builder and databasing using Airtable.



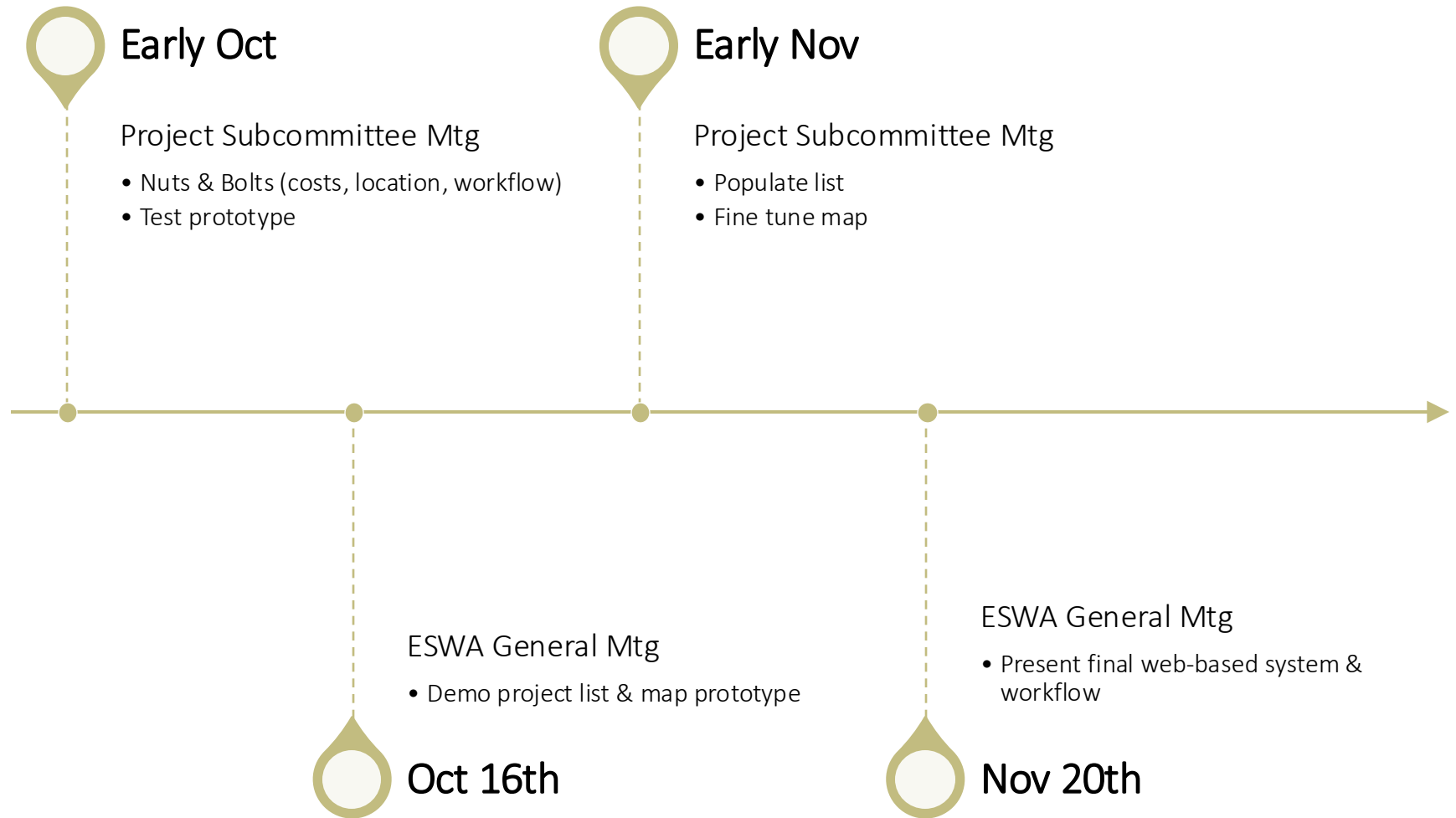
Feedback

- What information do you want to visualize on a map?
- What metrics do you want to be able to easily extract from our database?
- What practical questions do you want to be able to answer with this dashboard (map + database)

Next Steps

- Start gathering information to populate the projects into the dashboard
 1. Project subcommittee members (testing)
 2. Full ESWA start gathering project details

Next Steps





Project Update: Community Wildfire Defense Grant

Eastern Sierra Communities Wildfire Defense Program grant:



Amount: \$4.6 Million

Timeframe: 5 years

Purpose: Funds staffing, organizing, and implementation of a sustainable, two-county, local communities' hazardous fuels removal program



Applicant: Eastern Sierra Council of Governments

- *Subawards* for Inyo and Mono Counties
- *Contracts* for fuel reduction crews
- *Equipment* purchases
- *Staffing* capacity in ESCOG

Competitiveness: 58 out of 573 applicants funded nationwide

Grantor: US Forest Service \$1 billion five-year competitive Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Partners: Inyo & Mono Counties, Tribes, Fire Safe Councils / Firewise Communities, CAL FIRE, USFS, BLM, Local Fire Depts, Whitebark Institute, Cerro Coso College

Goals & Rollout

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Unite Partners | Build a coordinated, two-county wildfire defense program |
| 2. Empower Communities | Provide education, home assessment pilot, and local mitigation support |
| 3. Sustain Action | Embed fuel removal into county systems and integrate biomass processing across partnerships |



Mono

Topaz
Coleville
Walker
Bridgeport
Mono City
Lee Vining
June Lake
Mammoth Lakes
Crowley Lake
Sunny Slopes - Tom's Place
Swall Meadows - Paradise
Benton

Hammil Valley

Chalfant
White Mountain Estates

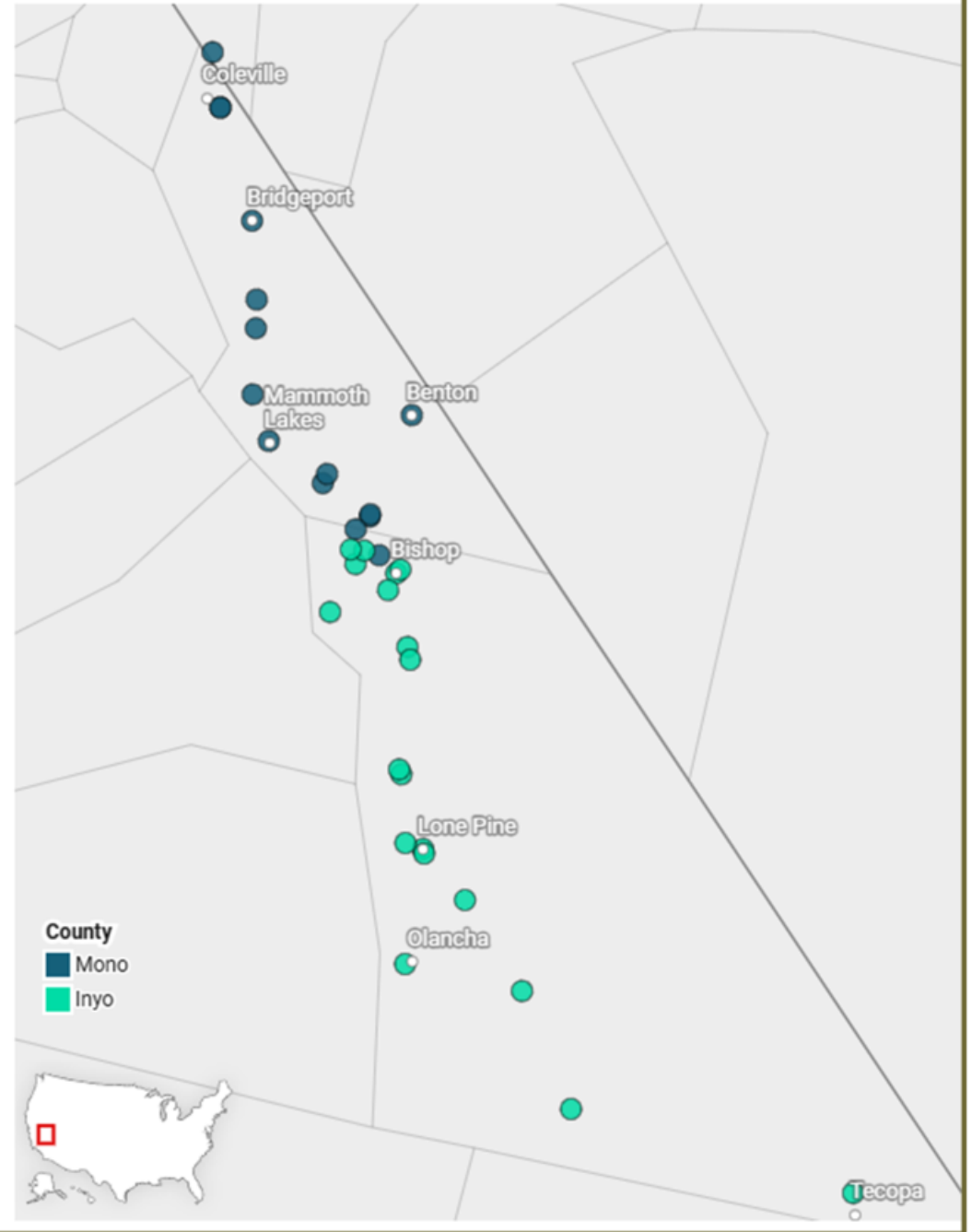
Inyo

Round Valley - 40 Acres
Mustang Mesa
Bishop Paiute Reservation
Bishop
Starlite
Aspendell - South Fork
Wilkerson
Big Pine
Birch Creek
Fort Independence
Independence
Lone Pine

Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation

Alabama Hills
Keeler
Olancho - Cartago
Darwin
Homewood Canyon
Shoshone - Tecopa

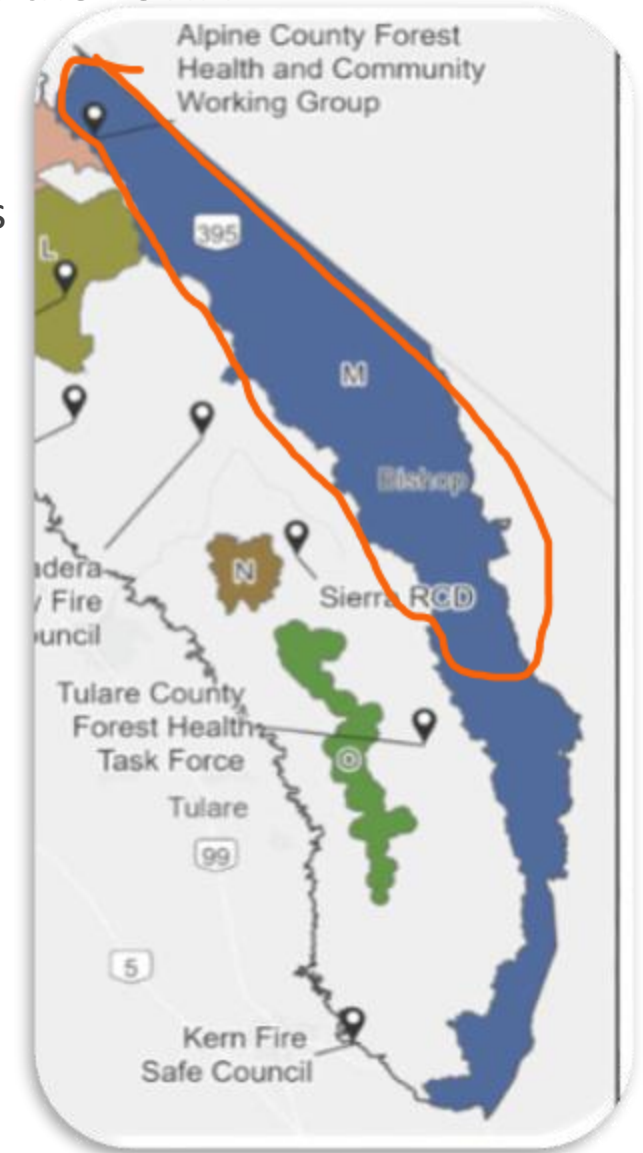
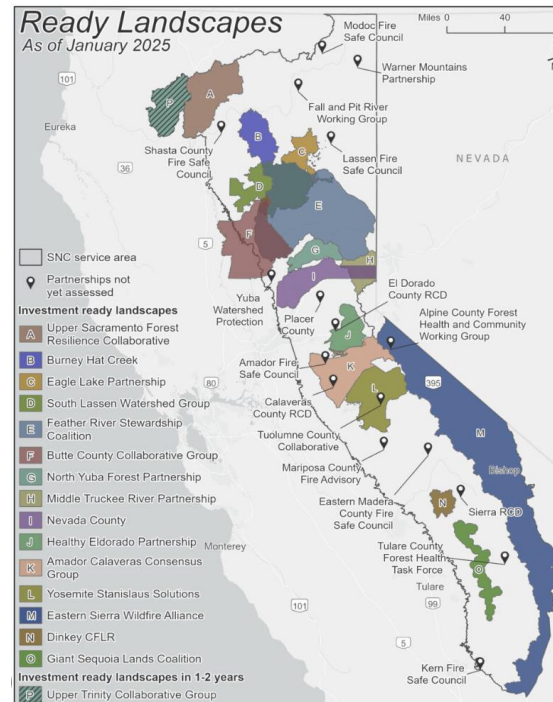
CWDG - 34 Communities Across Mono & Inyo Counties



Regional Priority Plan

- Tool used by SNC and DOC to track collaborative information
- Used to show regional efforts and opportunities
- Shared with CA Wildfire Task Force and funders
- Likely to be publicly available
- Will be used to determine future funding
- Highly encouraged to submit by October 31st!

- Requirement of the Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Program
- Whitebark Institute will submit on behalf of the ESWA
- Questions address:
 - Membership – Who makes up the Alliance
 - Governance Structure: Loose MOU in process
 - Landscape of Interest:
 - Primary & Secondary Objectives:
 - Community Resilience
 - Fire Resilient Landscapes



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■ Questions address continued:

○ **Project Portfolio:**

- Strategic collection of projects
- \$10 million or more in shovel ready projects?
- Means for accessing information
- Rough Acres & Cost Estimate of Projects?
- Assessment & Prioritization?

○ **Current Portfolio includes County CWPPs, previously ID'd projects**

○ **Help us make sure it's complete before the deadline:**

ACTION NEEDED:

- **List will be sent with instructions by Friday, Oct 17**
- **Review project list. Make sure it's not missing any project**
- **Ensure that projects have a *rough* estimate of cost and acreage**
- **Comments, additions are due by Oct 27 end of day**

THANK YOU



Next Steps:

- PLEASE NOTE: Final 2025 meeting rescheduled for Wednesday, November 19th
- Subcommittee Meetings
- Please submit any updates you would like shared in the newsletter to laura@whitebarkinstitute.org