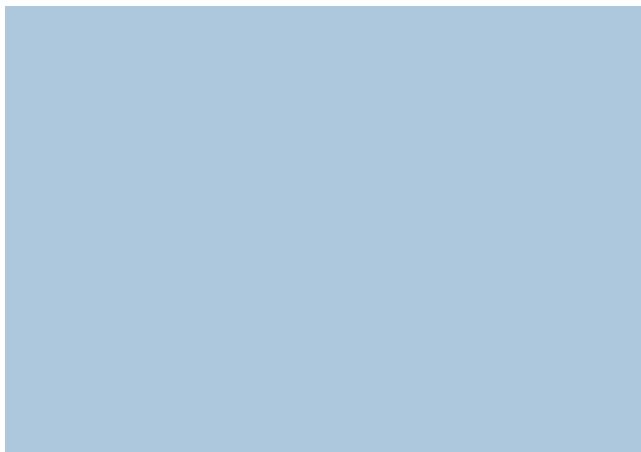
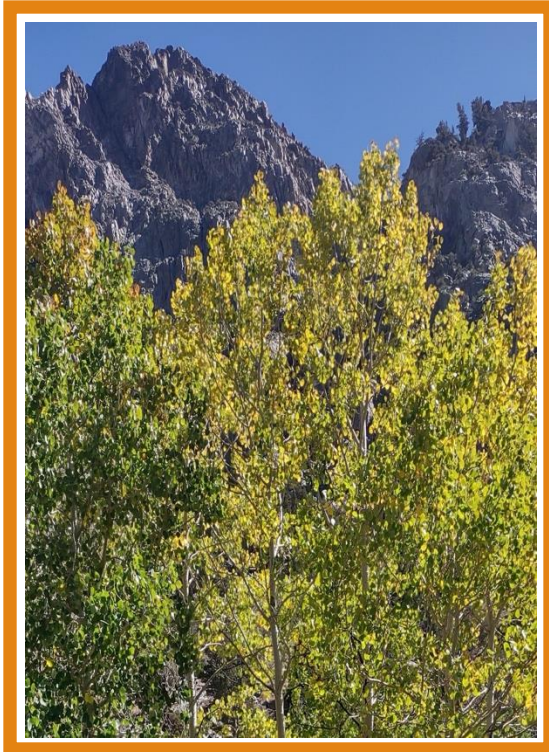
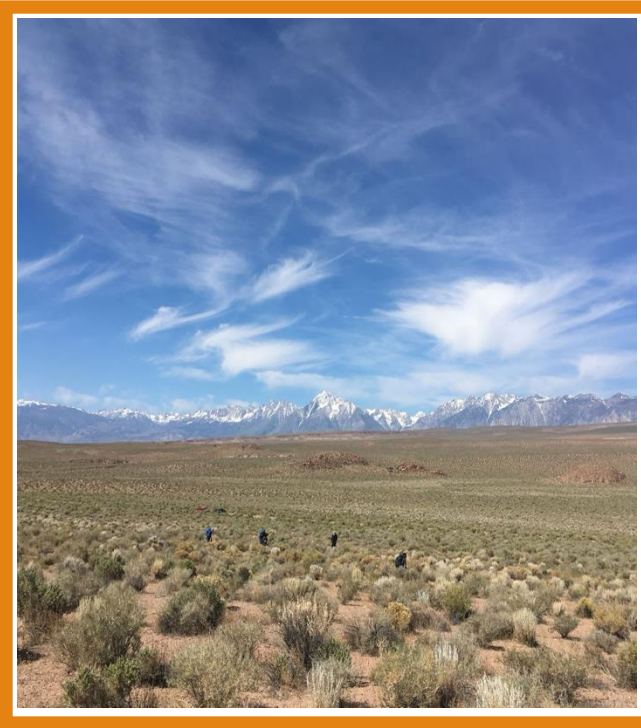




EASTERN SIERRA WILDFIRE ALLIANCE

SEPTEMBER 18, 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

ESWA Goals Review

Subcommittee Presentations & Discussions

- Governance
- Communications
- Projects

Partner Projects & Updates

- State Policy & Budget Updates
- Mono County CWPP
- West Mono Basin

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

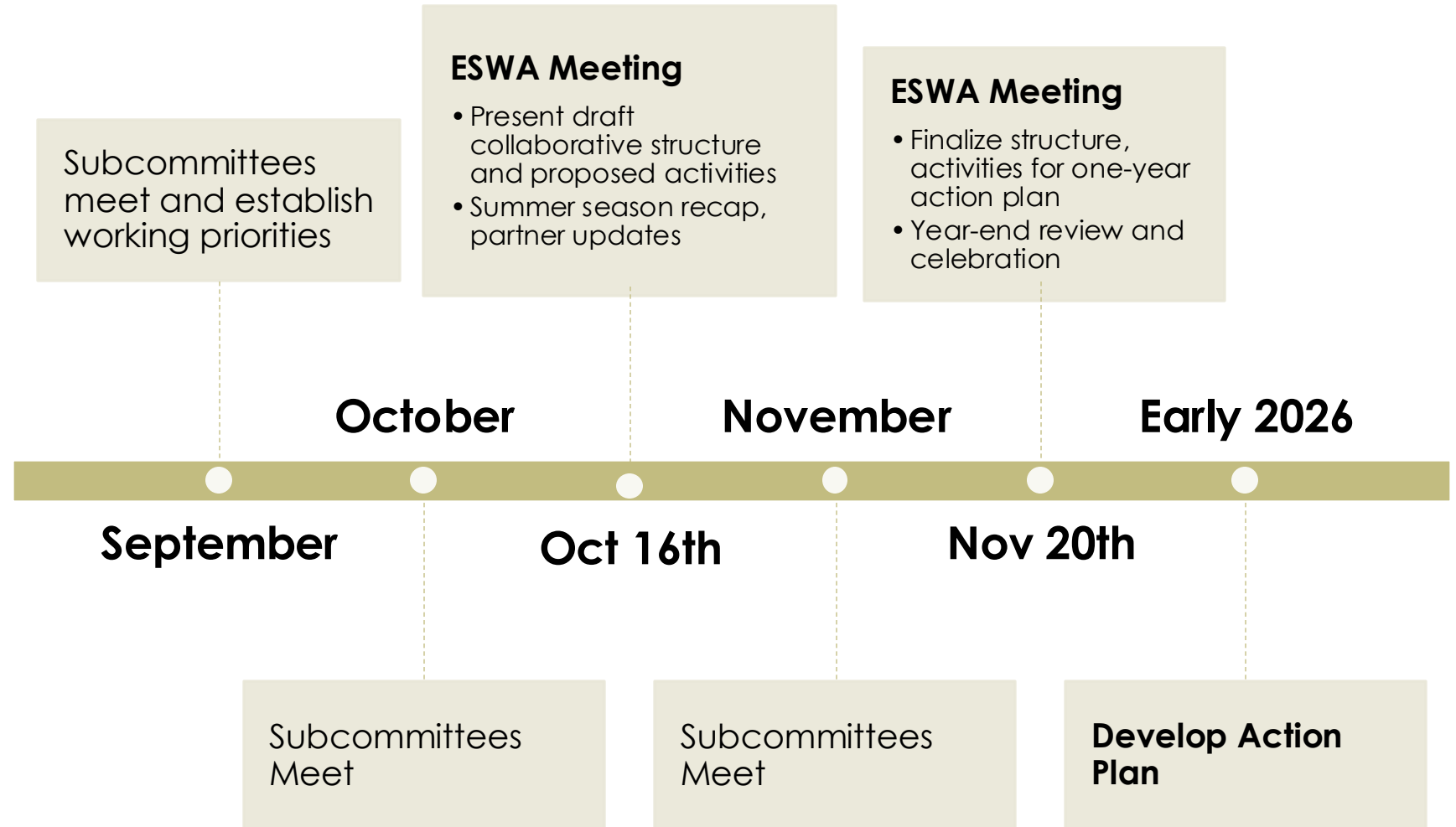


Be willing to reach consensus



Avoid/explain acronyms

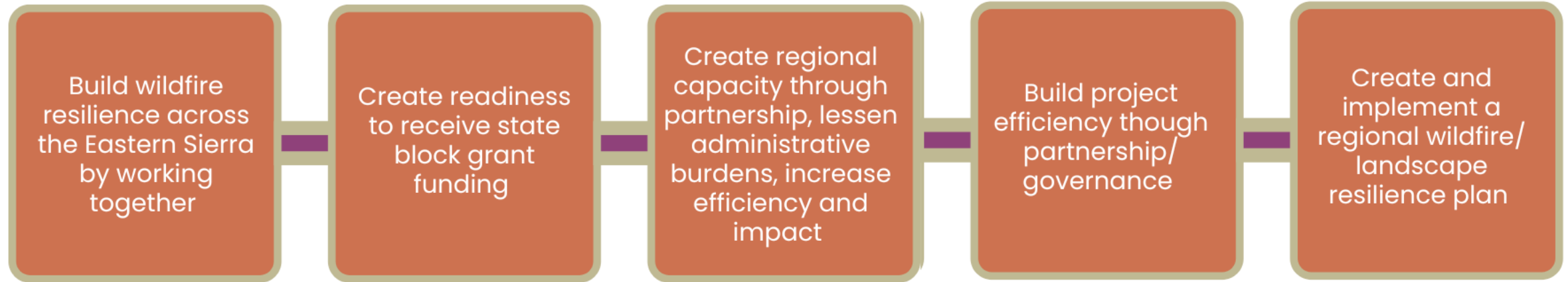
ESWA 2025 Timeline



Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance existing goals

Increase the pace and scale of projects, enhance communication and act as a repository for resources and information

Proposed additional goals



Additions

- Understanding cross-jurisdictional efforts (mapping, project status)
- New approach/mindset, not just repeating what was done before
- Landscape orientation
- Find agreement, consensus on priorities
- Tribal presence in ESWA leadership
- Cooperation, coordination across land ownership
- Understanding impact of management changes
- Integrating the Wildfire Adapted Community model into the ESWA goals
- Create a repository of knowledge of hydrant locations and responsibilities; collaborate with local fire depts for hydrants for locations
- Add a component of mailing addresses for information to those not on internet

Goals Refinement Brainstorm

What's most
important for
ESWA now?

DIRECTIONS

Step 1: (5 min)

- Individually, review the goals.
- Circle and number what stands out to you as the most important goals/concepts for ESWA now and in the near future.
- Move or cross out something you don't think belongs.
- Note if there are ideas listed as goals that might belong in the mission. Use post-its and sticky pads as needed!

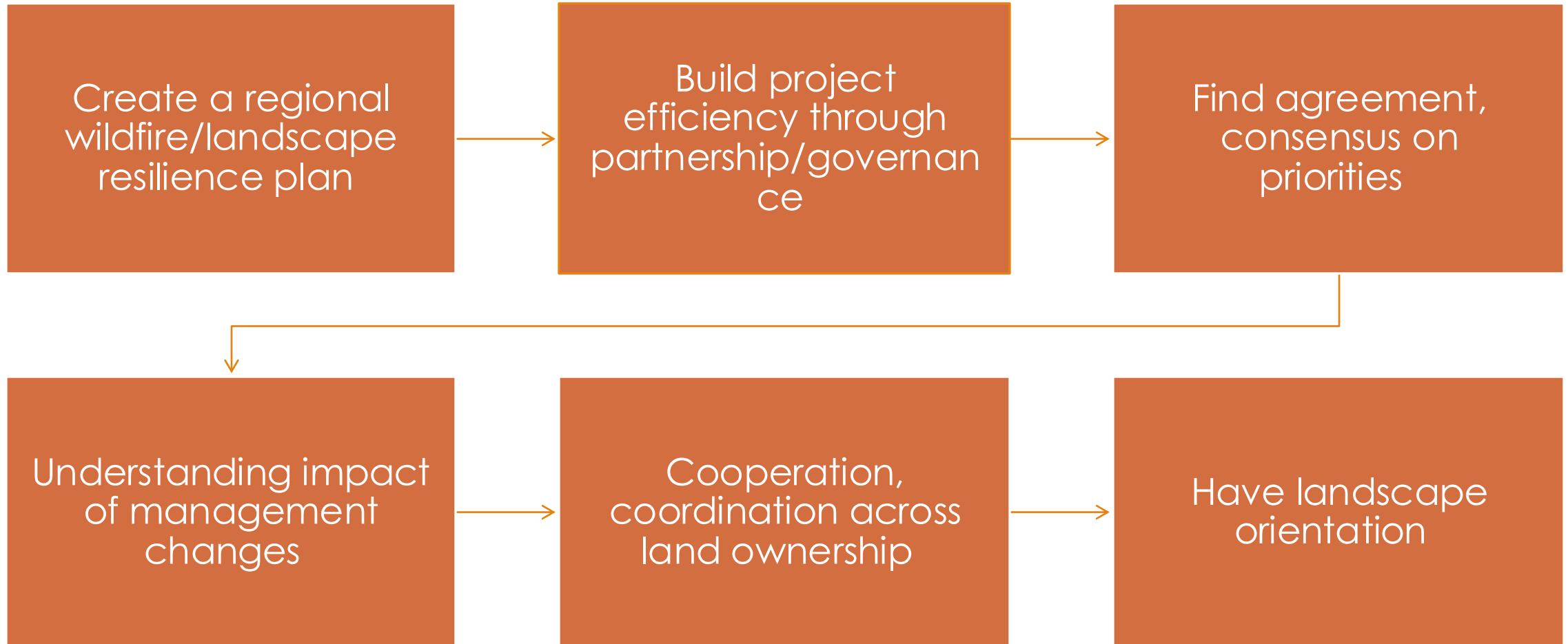
Planning team (with your permission) will save your scribbles.

Step 2: (10 min)

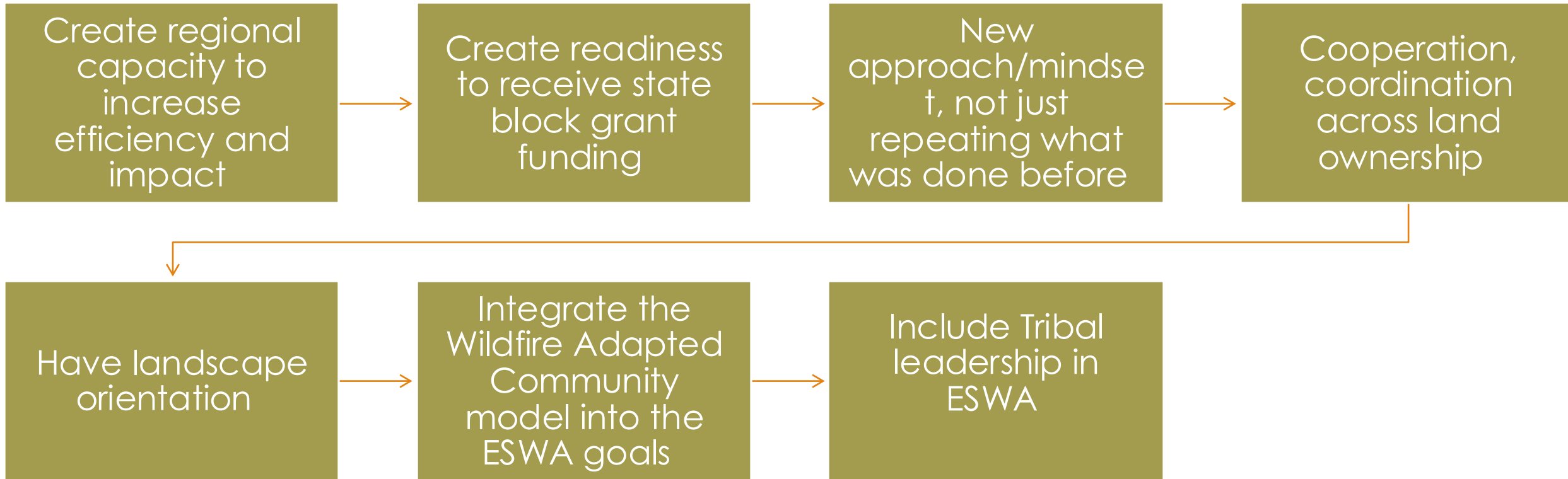
- Assign a flip chart notetaker at your table.
- Each person share their top goals/ideas.

Notetaker captures on flip chart. See if there is agreement at your table.

Goal: Increase the pace and scale of projects



Goal: Build wildfire resilience across the Eastern Sierra by working together



Goal: Enhance communication

Understand cross-jurisdictional efforts (mapping, project status)

Act as a repository for resources and communication

Specific ideas: Create a repository of knowledge of hydrant locations and responsibilities; collaborate with local fire depts for hydrants, they know locations; Add a component of mailing addresses for information to those not on internet



Governance Subcommittee

Healthy El Dorado Landscape Partnership (HELP)

- Focus: forest and watershed – El Dorado NF Resilience Strategy; includes planning, workforce, wood/biomass utilization
- Who: US Forest Service driven; partners include NGOS (regional, national), RCD/local gov, state agencies
- Funding: SNC Landscape Investment Strategy; Conservation Finance
- Feature/Product: Watershed Outcomes Bank

Wildfire Resilience Collaborative (Santa Barbara County)

- Focus: Community/resource protection, preparedness, response, recovery
- Who: Housed/staffed at RCD, includes Tribes, UCSB, NGOs (local, regional), local gov and fire agencies, land owners
- Funding: state, private foundations
- Feature/Product: Project Coordination Hub

Inland Empire RCD/Inland Empire Community Foundation (RFFC)/Regional Priority Plan for Wildfire Resilience in the Inland Empire

- Focus: Coordinated approach to wildfire resilience in Inland Empire through Regional Priority Plan
- Who: Anchored, staffed by RCD and Community Foundation, includes USFS, CAL FIRE, Tribes, NGOS, local gov/special districts
- Funding: state
- Feature/Product: RPP, new Headwaters initiative (feature at state Task Force meeting)

Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program

- Not currently active, but local model for collaborative planning/decision making, project planning and implementation following state process/guidelines, using state grant funding; lessons learned about consensus decision making

Yosemite-Stanislaus Solutions (YSS)

- Focus: Collaborative planning/implementation for forest restoration (started with Rim Fire Recovery)
- Who: Anchored, staffed by Tuolumne County; county and Tuolumne River Trust have Master Stewardship Agreement with Stanislaus NF; CAL FIRE, Tribes, NGOS, timber industry, numerous special districts, local orgs
- Funding: federal (major USFS investment), state
- Feature/Product: SERAL project implementation

North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP)

- Focus: Water, Natural Resource Management, Wildfire Resilience (started through IRWMP)
- Who: Tribes and 7 counties share leadership (formal leadership structure/Brown Act); coalition includes special districts, landowners, NGOs, consultants, businesses, residents
- Funding: numerous funding sources, local/state/federal
- Feature/Product: North Coast Resilience Plan

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group

- Focus: Restore forests, protect communities, rebuild local economies (triple bottom line)
- Who: Staffed by contract administrator; identify as "informal" collaborative; counties, water agencies, federal/state/local agencies, tribes, NGOs, business, residents
- Funding: USFS CFLRP, state (through UMRWA and other members)
- Feature/Product: Monitoring

Burney-Hat Creek Forest & Watershed Group

- Focus: Improve environmental, social, and economic well-being of watershed; reduce wildfire risk
- Who: Facilitated by Sierra Institute; Fall River RCD, US Forest Service, Pit River Tribe, state agencies, industry/local businesses, NGOs
- Funding: originally through federal Resource Advisory Council (RAC), USFS CFLRP, state
- Feature/Product: Original Member of Sierra Institute's SCALE program

North Yuba Forest Partnership

- Focus: Landscape-scale restoration to reduce wildfire risk, improve forest/watershed health
- Who: USFS, Yuba Water Agency, Blue Forest, The Nature Conservancy, NFF, SYRCL (regional NGO), Nisenan Tribe, Sierra County
- Funding: federal, state, FRB
- Feature/Product: Forest Resilience Bond

Considerations

- Focus
 - For many, wildfire resilience includes landscape/forest health and community well being
 - Regional, landscape scale (across admin boundaries)
 - *For ESWA, ensure focus on community/incorporating community feedback, supporting community groups/prioritizing project from communities out*
- Administration/Coordination/Funding
 - Committed anchor partners (Forest Service, counties, Tribes, NGOs, special districts)
 - Strong administrative backbone (sometimes housed in local gov/special district)
 - Many use contract coordinator/facilitator
 - Funding pursued through individual members
 - *For ESWA, opportunity to coordinate/complement other collaborative planning efforts (such as sustainable recreation*
- Structure/Agreement
 - Committees
 - Clear membership roles
 - Regular, open, full collaborative meetings
 - Commitment to inclusivity, transparency (emphasis on community-level engagement)
 - Most operate under MOU/MOA
 - Models for Tribal partnership
 - Design for adaptivity, grow organically according to need
- Decision Making
 - Consensus (Many use modified consensus)
- Planning
 - Annual workplan
 - Larger, multi-year plans (aligned with local, state, federal plans, priorities)
 - Field trips
 - Great examples of tracking, communicating impact

Discussion

Answering these questions will help governance subcommittee continue to develop a proposed structure.

- Collaborative Focus: How does ESWA approach wildfire resilience goals?
 - Community protection/preparedness needs?
 - Balancing community and landscape/ecosystem resilience?
- Administration/Coordination/Funding: Does ESWA want to pursue a model structure based on considerations from other collaboratives?
- Structure/Agreement: Does ESWA support a model with working committees, regular and open meetings, guided by an MOU (or similar agreement) that meets state/federal funding requirements? Follow up: How can ESWA coordinate/align with other collaborative efforts in the region?
- Decision Making: Does ESWA want to use consensus or explore modified consensus (with resolution pathways) to make decisions?



Communications Subcommittee

COMMUNICATIONS

21

INTERNAL RESOURCE SHARING, COMMUNICATION AMONG MEMBERS

- Use slack or similar
- Project management database such as Airtable or Asana
- Access to reporters, local newsletters to advertise events, share best practices on outreach and public events to avoid duplication

14

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY LEVEL COMMUNICATIONS

- Resident outreach and communication, develop and distribute materials to groups – stop reinventing the wheel for educational materials
- Fire Safe/Firewise groups are struggling to get a database of property owners they can use to foster community involvement
- Need partnership with county agencies in getting information

12

REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND MESSAGING

- Create systems—internal/ESWA, External (public), create authoritative source to filter out noise
- Efficiency/don't flood the channel, multi-level model needed
- Good communication will take diligent care and feeding
- Visitor/resident/business owner outreach, after-event communication to community is critical
- Different tools for different audiences

8

VISITOR OUTREACH

- Use USFS permittees to talk to visitors

6

OUTREACH EVENTS / HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR

- PIO model, acute vs long-term communication
- Resident outreach and education

5

COMMUNICATION ABOUT PROJECTS

- Utilize local newspapers like Eastern Sierra Now

3

COMMUNICATING WHAT A HEALTHY FOREST IS

- Region-wide book groups at local libraries
- Helping the community “unlearn” prior beliefs and embrace new understanding based on latest science

Committee Tasks

During our meetings we aimed to:

1. Solicit feedback on ESWA communications up to this point
2. Discuss the function of ESWA for external vs internal communications
3. Identify current needs for website improvements

Current Communication Tools

Email

- Meeting details, funding opportunities, relevant events

Meetings

- Partner, policy, and funding updates

ESWA Website

- Meeting details, reports, resources & project updates

Committee Discussion

We identified **immediate** internal and external communications needs:

Internal Communications

Shared platform for resource sharing

- Current funding opportunities, grant application resource page

External Communications

Clarify the role of ESWA in external communications

Website Maintenance

Immediate Needs

- Updated member and contact list
- Committee structure and members
- Grants resource page

Long-term Goals

- Community Calendar
- Resource Hub
- List and map of projects
- Regional communications toolkit

Questions for Other Committees

Projects

Is the project list only a resource for ESWA partners or for public education?

How should it be made accessible?

Governance

What information should be external vs internal? Ex: meeting minutes

What is ESWA's role in supporting Firewise Communities & Fire Safe Council communications

Current Communications

Immediate website needs?

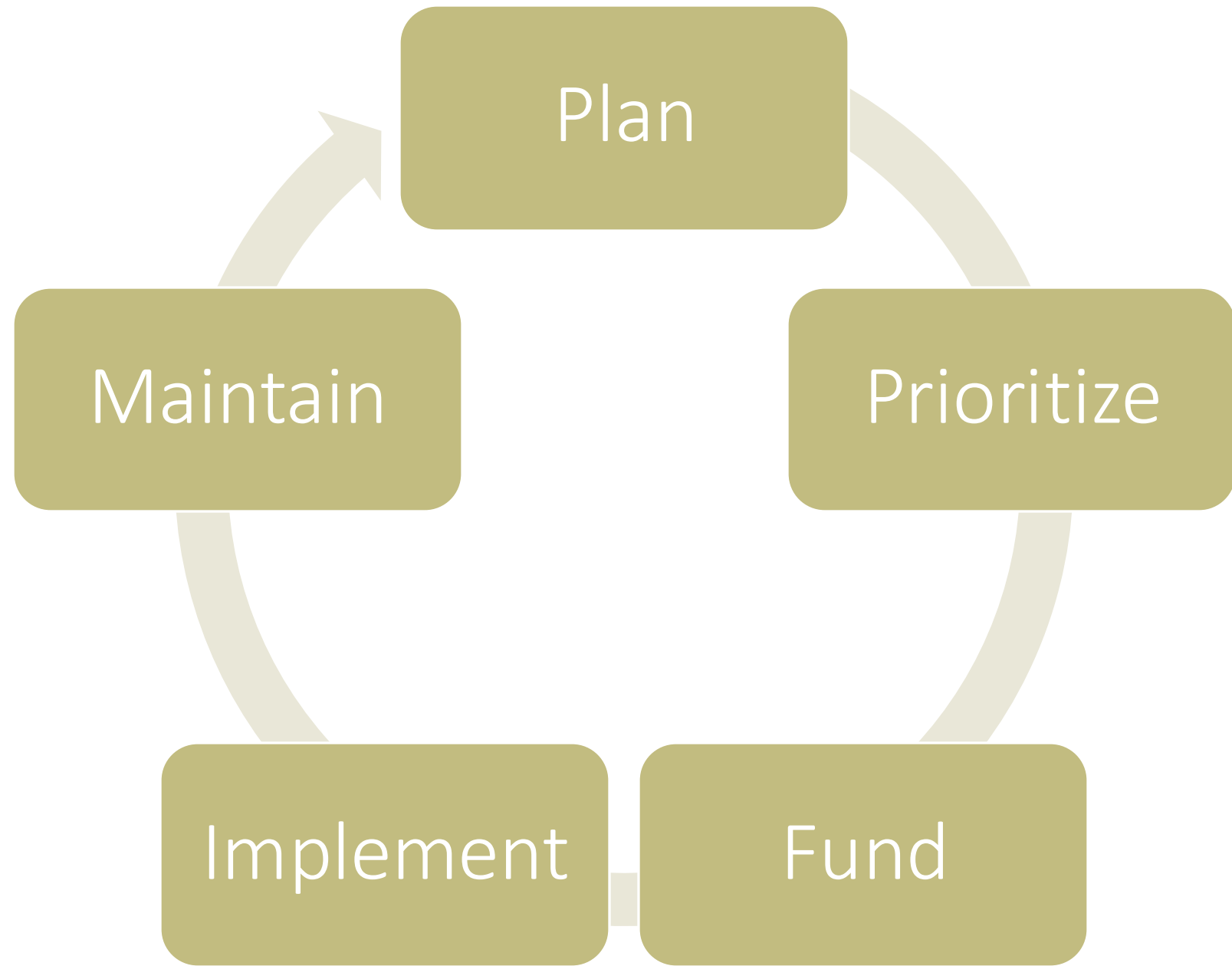


Project Subcommittee

Recap



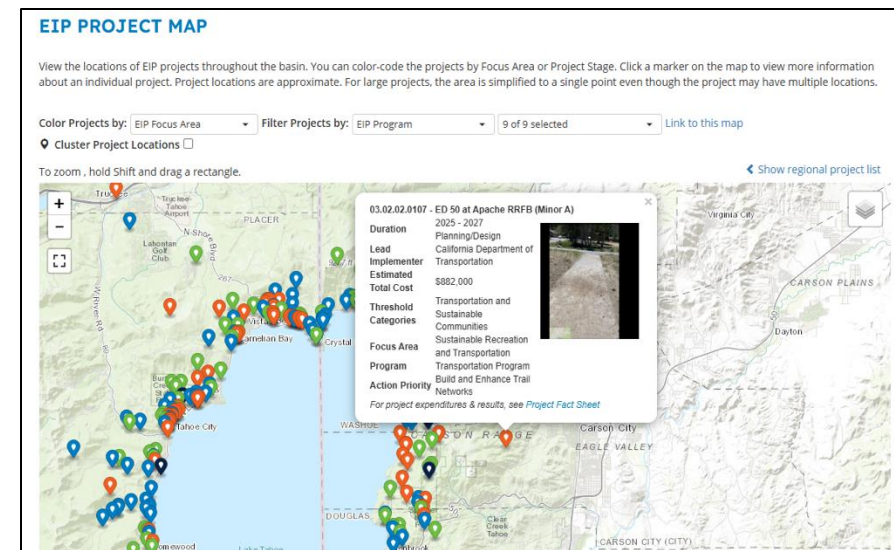
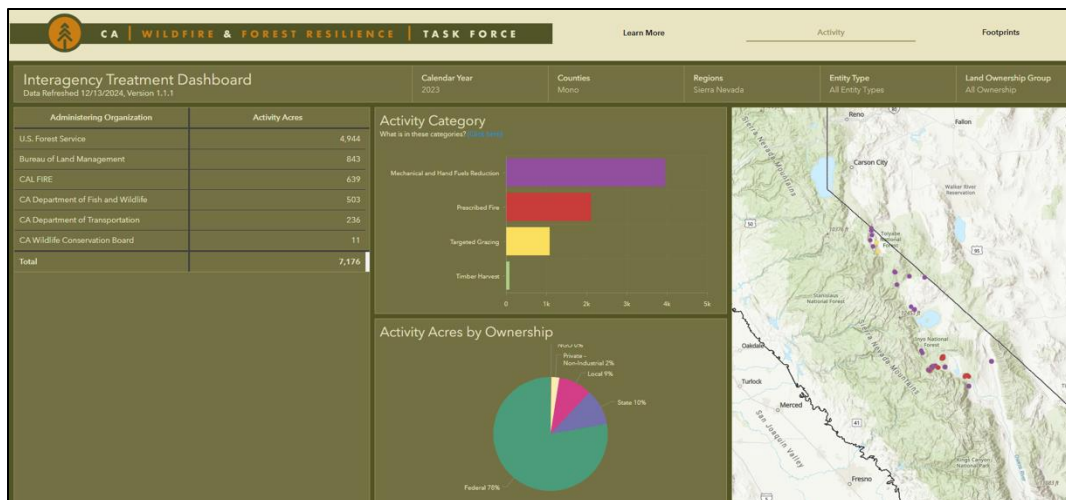
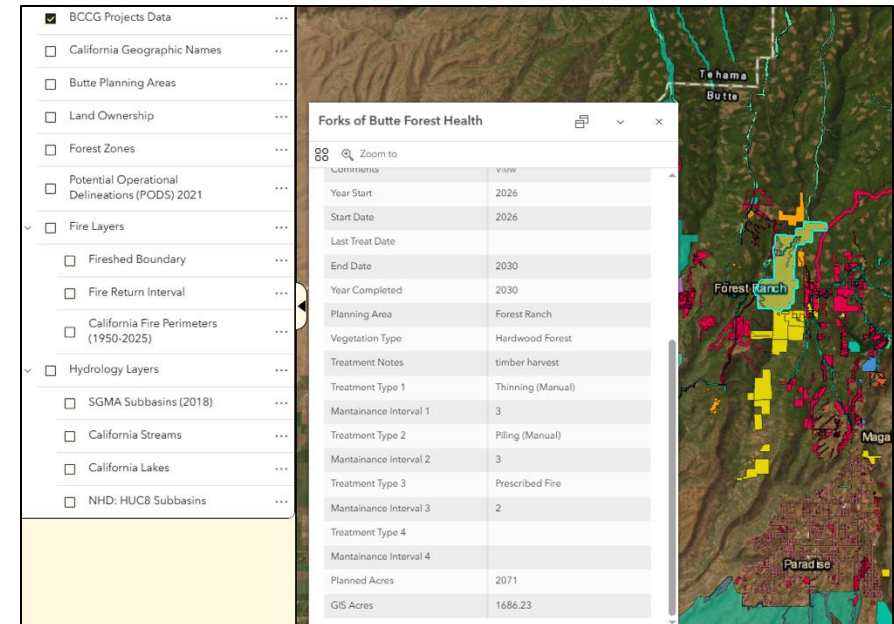
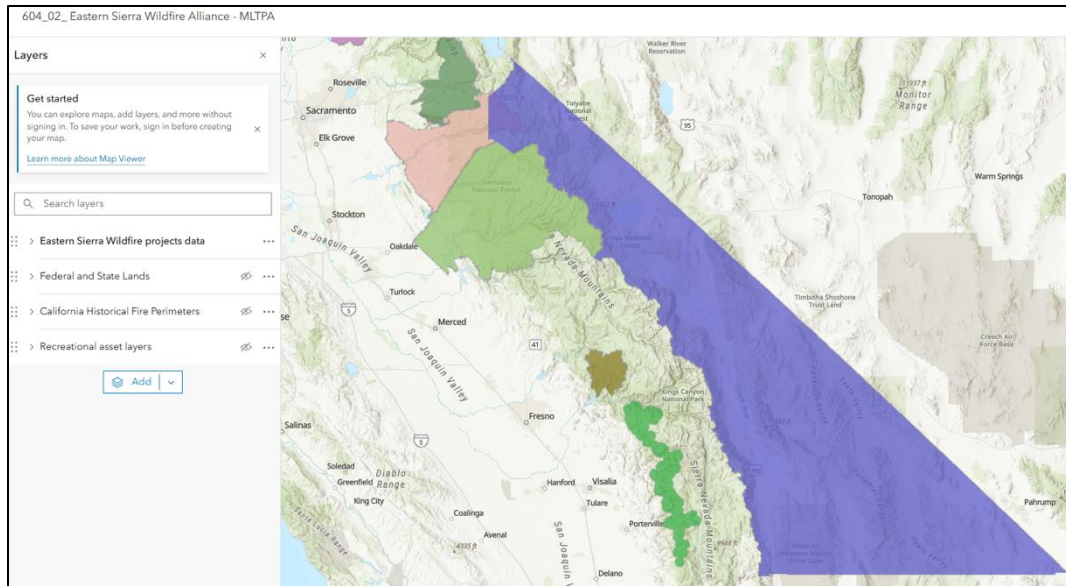
Create a Living Tool



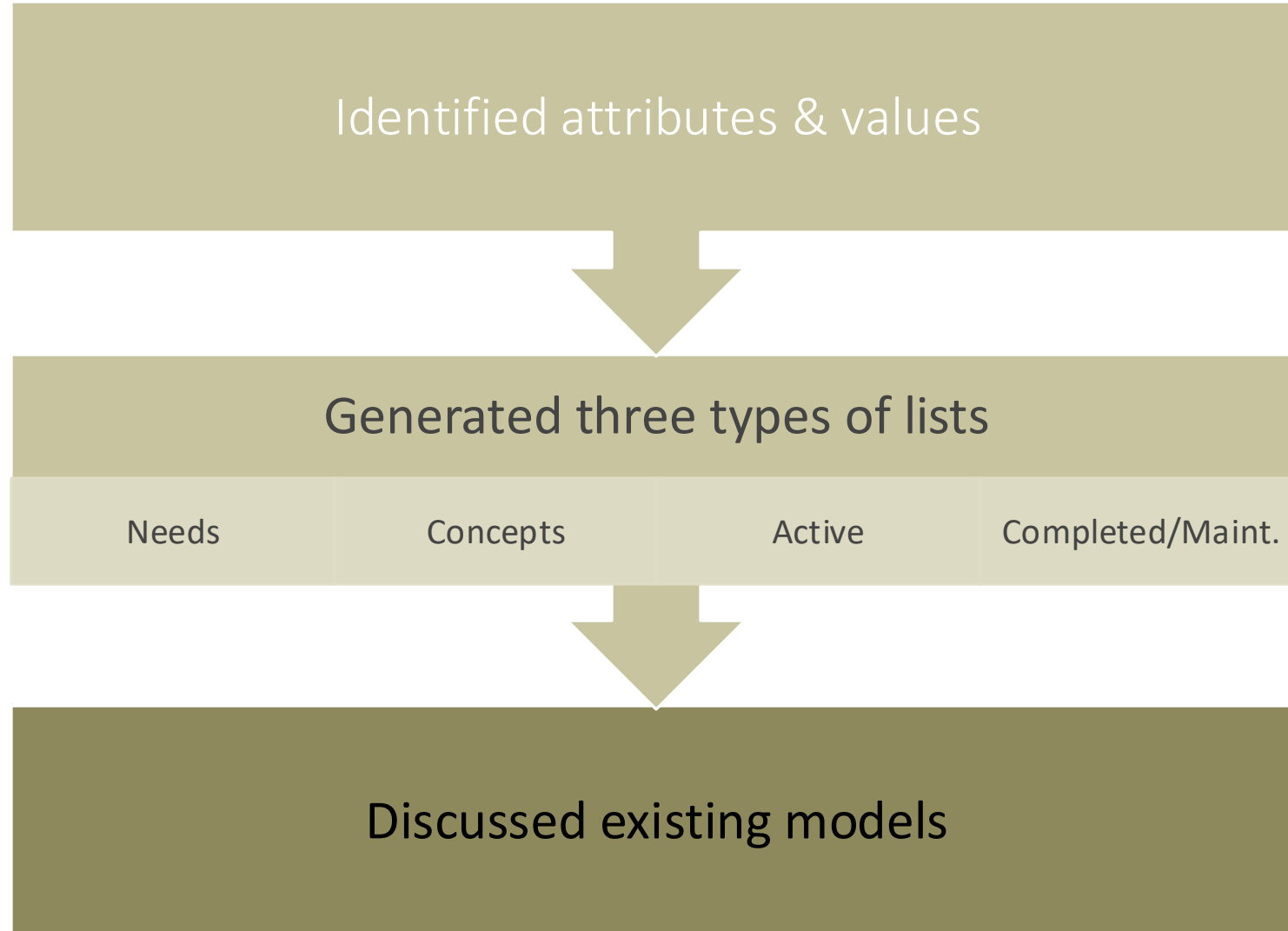
Committee Tasks

- ✓ Identify projects
- ✓ Define attributes
- ✓ Establish inclusion criteria

Where are we going?



Committee Outputs



[Contact Us](#)



Hide fields Filter Grouped by 1 field Sort							
☐	Project Name	Project Description	Project Lead	Project Status	Project Type	Treatment Type	Land Ownership
53	Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Fire and Habitat Manag...	This project would develop a management strategy that ...	San Bernardino Valley Municipal Wat...	Preliminary Planning	Plan Development		N/A
PROJECT LEAD Mountain Rim FSC 4							
54	Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	This project would recruit a collaborative coordinator who...	Mountain Rim FSC	Implementation Ready	Plan Development		N/A
55	Fuel Reduction at Rim Nordic	This project would focus on fuel reduction of brush and d...	Mountain Rim FSC	Conceptual	Hazardous Fuels Reduct...	Mechanical Treatment	USFS Lease
56	Little Mountain Prescribed Grazing Project	The Little Mountain region of San Bernardino is a small n...	Mountain Rim FSC	Implementation in Prog...	Hazardous Fuels Reduct...	Prescribed Grazing	Private Land
57	Wildfire on Wheels	This project would develop an interactive mobile wildfire ...	Mountain Rim FSC	Preliminary Planning	Education & Outreach		N/A
PROJECT LEAD Headwaters Resiliency Partnership 4							
58	Interagency Wildfire and Forest Health Training Program	As our region works to build staff capacity across all orga...	Headwaters Resiliency Partnership	Preliminary Planning	Workforce Development	Prescribed Fire	N/A
59	Regional Data Coordination	In 2020, partners in the region flew LiDAR imagery over t...	Headwaters Resiliency Partnership	Preliminary Planning	Research		N/A
60	Regional Prioritization Tool	There is a need for more data-informed planning process...	Headwaters Resiliency Partnership	Preliminary Planning	Plan Development		N/A
61	Regional Wildfire Prevention Camp Liason for the San Ber...	This project would propose the development of a coordin...	Headwaters Resiliency Partnership	Preliminary Planning	Workforce Development		N/A
PROJECT LEAD San Diego Zoo 1							
62	Long-term AESS Habitat Restoration Monitoring Plots	This project would plan, implement, and track the effectiv...	San Diego Zoo	Implementation Ready	Research		

Currently serves as a funding and communication platform

San Bernardino Mountains Regional Priority Plan

[Overview](#)[Planning Process](#)[Project List](#)[Project Map](#)[Submit Project](#)[Contact Us](#)

If you have a landscape-scale forest health or fire resilience project to be included in this Regional Priority Plan, please submit your project using the form below and we will follow-up with you.



Project Submittal Form

Please enter your forest health or fire resilience project information below to be included in the San Bernardino Regional Priority Plan. If you have multiple projects, submit a separate form for each project.

For help completing the form, email Melanie Garcia at mgarcia@iercd.org.

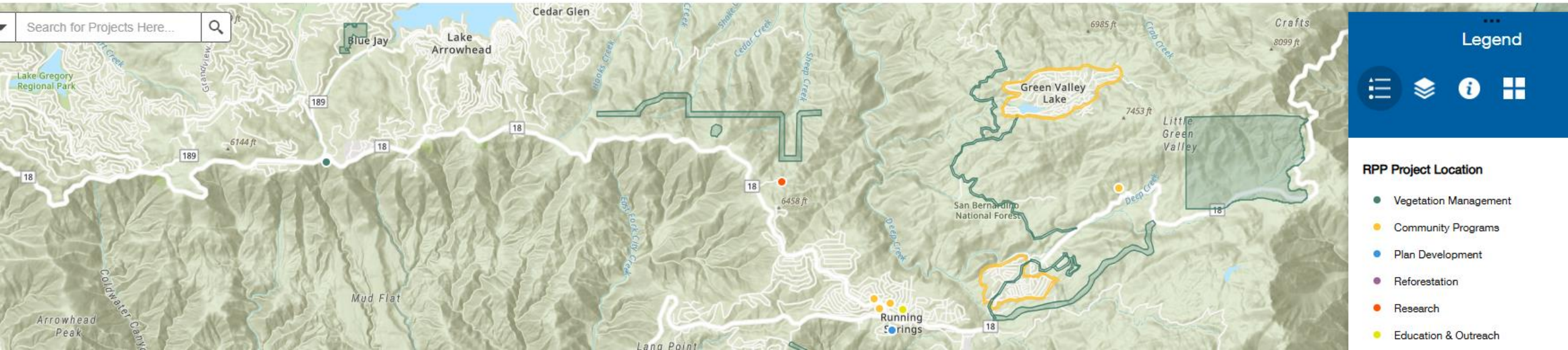
Project Name *

Project Description *

PROJECT MAP

The map below shows the Regional Priority Plan projects that cover a specific geographic area, as well as other relevant data layers such as jurisdictions, fire hazard severity, and more.

Navigate the map using the Explore tools displayed at the top right corner of the map. Refer to the Project List tab for full project details.



Next Steps





California
**Department of
Conservation**
Land Resource Protection

DOC Climate Bond Rollout

Hannah Page and Katya Christian

*Grant managers with Regional Forest and Fire Capacity
Program*

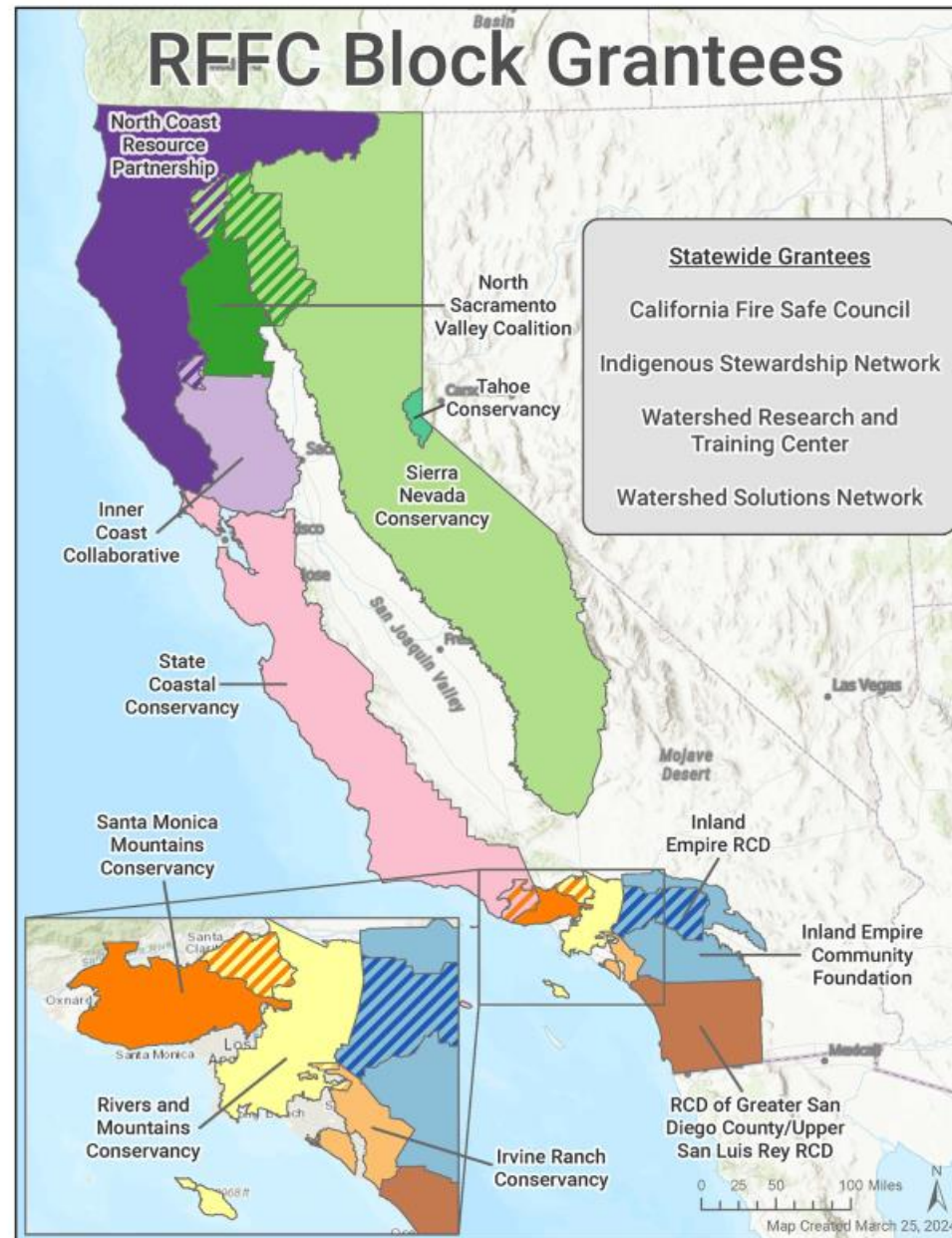
Hannah.Page@conservation.ca.gov

Katya.Christian@conservation.ca.gov

September 2025

Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program

\$140 million invested and
12 Regional Block Grantees
and **6 Statewide grantees** to
date.



RFFC Slated to Receive \$185 million in funding from Prop 4 in the coming years

"One hundred eighty-five million dollars (\$185,000,000) shall be available to the Department of Conservation's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program to increase regional capacity to prioritize, develop, and **implement** projects that improve forest health and fire resilience, implement community fire preparedness demonstration projects, facilitate greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and increase carbon sequestration in forests and other landscapes across regions and throughout the state. The funding shall be allocated based, to the extent feasible, on the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan."

Prop 4 Funding Opportunities



Other relevant funders supported by Prop 4:

- CAL FIRE and SNC: \$170,000,000 to "Implement Regional Projects"
- CAL FIRE: \$175,000,000 for Forest Health
- Office of Emergency Services (CalOES): \$135,000,000 for Wildfire Mitigation Grants
- SNC: \$33,500,000 for watershed improvement, forest health, biomass utilization, chaparral and forest restoration, and workforce development
- SNC: \$48,000,000 to reduce the risks of climate change impacts upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and increase public access
- DOC: \$50,000,000 for Forest Biomass Utilization Program

DOC Forest Biomass Utilization Program



\$50 million to Forest Biomass Utilization Program

- **\$10 million** awards to **4-5 implementation projects**

Eligibility: Local governments, Tribes, non-profits. Private entities not eligible.

Timeline

- Fall 2025: Public meetings, draft solicitation, public comment
- Winter 2025-26: Grant application window
- Grant Term: ~5 years

More Information

Sign up for updates from the Forest Biomass Program listserv
Elizabeth Betancourt – Elizabeth.Betancourt@conservation.ca.gov
Katya Christian – Katya.Christian@conservation.ca.gov





Mono County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

- Project recognition in CWPP required for successful funding applications
- Interim Update to CWPP: Mono Co & Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District
- Update Future Fuels Reduction Project List w/ known ready projects not included in 2019 CWPP
- Full update anticipated in 2026 and 2027
- Contact Ales@mlfd.ca.gov or Rick@WhitebarkInstitute.org with questions or projects



West Mono Basin Project Development

Region under consideration for the development of wildfire resilience projects

Funding for this effort is provided by the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments through a California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant and by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



West Mono Basin Project

Upcoming Community Meetings

- October 7th; Mono City Community Meeting
 - Lee Vining Community Center
- October 20th; Lee Vining Community Meeting
 - Lee Vining Library
- October 28th; June Lake Community Meeting
 - June Lake Community Center
- November 5th; Online via Zoom
 - All Meetings will be held from 6:00pm-8:00pm

Community Input Survey

Visit Whitebark's website to provide input via survey!

Please help spread the word!

Meeting Dates and Proposed Activities

10am- 1pm, In person with hybrid option
Seeking lunch sponsors!

- **October 16th (Bishop- Inyo County Building):** Draft structure and plan, policy updates and re-cap of summer activities
- **November 20th (Bishop- Inyo County Building):** Final 2025 planning meeting and celebration

THANK YOU



Next Steps:

- Next meeting date: November 19th
- Subcommittee Meetings: September- November
- Please submit any updates you would like shared in the newsletter to laura@whitebarkinstitute.org