

Memorandum of Understanding South Lassen Watersheds Group

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by participating members of The South Lassen Watersheds Group (SLWG).

Mission Statement: The SLWG works collaboratively to identify, advance, support and enable projects on public and private land in the North Fork Feather River/Upper Deer Creek/Upper Mill Creek watersheds to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and improve ecological resilience, watershed condition and function, and local community health and socioeconomic conditions.

Participating SLWG members agree to commit resources to this collaborative work including but not limited to:

- Time and effort for consistent representation at SLWG in-person meetings and subcommittee meetings/phone calls;
- Adherence to ground rules and respectful discourse at all meetings;
- Working collaboratively to formulate reasonable and constructive alternatives that, to the extent practicable, respond to respective opinions in group decisions; and,
- Development of realistic timelines for proposed projects.

Participating members also agree to the following goals for the SLWG, with the understanding that this list is adaptive. In pursuit of the following, participating members will consider the consequences of climate change and its effects on achieving stated goals through the 21st century. In project planning and implementation, participating members agree both to seek integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge of the Maidu people, and to work with other stakeholder groups as appropriate. Finally, in enacting management, participating members agree to apply specific strategies listed below as appropriate and feasible based on their respective jurisdictions and legal requirements.

Forests, fuels, and fire

1. Strategically locate fuelbreaks to reduce the risk of high severity fire;
2. Implement fuel reductions that increase the potential to use managed wildfire to achieve forest and watershed restoration;
3. Reduce fuel loading in the wildland-urban interface, and manage risks to life and property;
4. Manage fuels and fire to enhance watershed health; and,
5. Manage carbon storage, maximizing sequestration and mitigating large-scale emission events.

Hydrology and water resources

1. Manage project area watersheds, including meadows and wetlands, to sustain/enhance native species and their habitat;

2. Manage community recharge areas to protect water sources from the effects of damaging wildfire and from reduced groundwater infiltration or excessive siltation;
3. Support and advance the efforts of existing area watershed groups and conservancies to monitor water quality and aquatic habitat, including the development of long-term data sets to evaluate project and climate change impacts.

Local benefits

1. Utilize biomass at multiple scales - including community and tribal biomass projects - to benefit communities and advance landscape-scale forest and fuels management;
2. Enhance economies within these watersheds by promoting nature-based sustainable jobs, recreation, and through youth education and career learning opportunities;
3. Enhance public access to open space by selecting projects with multiple benefits where possible;
4. Promote conservation of, and enhance interpretive opportunities for, historic and cultural sites and landscapes, as appropriate; and,
5. Increase public awareness of collaborative activities through highly visible projects and interpretive materials.