



**South Lassen Watershed Group Strategic Planning Meeting**  
Thursday, August 1, 2019; Collins Pine Conference Room 2:30-5:00pm

Meeting Synopsis

The South Lassen Watersheds Group’s (SLWG) Strategic Planning Committee met in Chester, CA to review the plan outline and draft, realign the plan with the group’s mission and objectives, and provide structure for how further develop resource sections.

Attendees

Alisha Wilson	MSC	Russell Nickerson	Lassen National Forest
Lorena Gorbet	MSC	Niel Fischer	Collins Pine
Ken Holbrook	MSC	Jonathan Kusel	Sierra Institute
Ryan Burnett.	Point Blue Conservation	Dov Weinman	Sierra Institute
Ken Roby	Trout Unlimited		

Introductions

After introductions for new participants, Ken Roby asked to modify the agenda to include discussion of the GIS contract and its place within the strategic plan. Jonathan Kusel explained the slowness of the BOR contract the consequentially delayed plans for GIS work, however, he acknowledged the remaining potential for fire modeling and boundary mapping. Ken Holbrook suggested that Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), the Maidu Summit Consortium’s role, and funds through the DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant be acknowledged at some point in the meeting. Jonathan agreed and suggested that TEK be specifically woven into various parts of the strategic plan and asked Ken H. to help initiate opportunities for integrating TEK into the group’s conversations.

Group Objectives for Strategic Planning

Using the latest strategic plan draft from January 2019, the group discussed document structure and revisions to the organization of resource areas, objectives, and specifically identified projects. Ryan Burnett characterized the draft’s “forests, fuels, and fire” as being too narrow, and the group discussed additional content related to resilient forests, water resources, and economic and cultural benefits. Lorena Gorbet consolidated certain components of the past draft into broader resource areas, or themes, of water resources and hydrology, cultural and economic benefits, and biology and habitat. Participants continued to develop these resource areas; they are delegated to strategic planning committee members under the “Next Steps” section of this document. Niel Fischer emphasized the importance of keeping references to fuel and fire and encouraged the group to keep language concise and simple. The group agrees to keep the resource themes inclusive and to allow simplicity and brevity to emphasize linkages between language and purpose. The group intends to avoid too much specific detail and strives to develop a high-level guiding document.

Ryan proposed that any needed resource assessments be built into the specific objectives, and

Jonathan emphasized potential benefits for applying for funding if projects were consistent with the objectives in the strategic plan. Though the group has mostly defaulted to low-hanging fruit in the past, assessments within the plan allow the group to focus in on larger, more complex projects in the future.

### Integration of TEK

Ken H. suggested that TEK could be built into community benefits (economic and cultural), but there is a need to address how to make this measurable. Members agreed that TEK can lead to more holistic and informed projects, and the plan could include specific objectives for piloting TEK rather than using TEK as an overarching theme throughout different resource areas.

Jonathan and Dov Weinman described the potential for bringing in Lomakatsi Restoration Project, a non-profit, grassroots organization that develops and implements forest and watershed restoration projects in Oregon and Northern California, for support in this process. Specifically, support would focus on Lomakatsi assistance to the MSC with respect to process and integration approaches, and to help MSC advance MSC TEK practices in the South Lassen Watersheds area. Ken H. mentioned that Lomakatsi is well-versed in some universal ideas among Tribes and they have experience supporting groups in the integration of TEK. Jonathan proposed the question: How can the group integrate TEK into objectives in the strategic plan while proceeding with conversations with Lomakatsi about their various programs?

### Outline Status and Structure

Group members agreed simplicity and conciseness would drive revisions of the draft's introduction, and that the current outline doesn't reflect desired function for the strategic plan. After a short statement of purpose, the strategic plan will be organized into resource themes with measurable objectives. Participants proposed slightly broader "resource themes" to more appropriately organize the outline's objectives. In an initial discussion, participants suggested theme areas that included: sustainable economics, forests and fires, water resources, biodiversity, community, and lessons learned. Ryan proposed that the outline shouldn't be so specific as to include individual species, but that more detailed items could fall under certain objectives. It's important that objectives be time-bound, specific, and measurable. Ken R. emphasized the importance of prioritizing projects based on the strategic plan, and Niel made comparisons between prioritizing the most beneficial areas with risk modeling. He added that this approach may be too far down in the weeds for a strategic planning document. Group members agreed the strategic plan should include a tool for prioritization but should avoid listing specific sets of projects. Project-related items such as group capacity building, workforce development, and plant propagation could fit into objectives. An important component of the plan is the group's experiences in collaborative processes and to share lessons learned. Group members were eager to share lessons both internally and externally for the benefit of other collaborative groups. Jonathan suggested this section could include aspects of institutional learning, pace, scale and capacity building.

### Strategic Plan Timeline

The group discussed reasonable timeframes for the objectives in the strategic plan, wanting to balance the possibility of long-term and short-term benefits. Projects and objectives may become stale over longer timelines and make the strategic plan's processes for prioritizing projects less useful. In the short term there must be identification of treatments areas, but the group also

acknowledged the importance of addressing long-term plans for how to proceed toward desired future conditions. Communities are often the central concern in the short-term, but the group hopes to address the many acres within the SLWG footprint that may not be priority concerns for communities. Jonathan explained the opportunity for TEK to play a critical role in connecting community to broader landscapes. Ken H. also emphasized the way TEK can act as a bridge to community benefits, given the locations of past Tribal communities, traditional locations for food sources, and a more historical perspective of the landscape.

Ryan suggested possible benefits of logic modeling or developing theories of change to connect desired outcomes with specific actions. A needs assessment could also be incorporated into this modeling. The group discussed broadening the capacity of the SLWG through developing processes for prioritizing projects. Members also suggested the importance of identifying specialists, specifically archeologists, and how to make the work flow by incorporating local community members who have more capacity, with the hope that it leads to increased employment within the community.

Projected changes and scenarios for climate, including precipitation and temperature, will be captured in a high-level paragraph following the strategic plan's introductory section. Group members wanted the strategic plan to consider climate change for long-term planning.

#### Next Steps: Compiling information and Drafting

Themes:

- i. Sustainable Economies - Sierra Institute.
- ii. Forests, Fuels, Fires – Bennie/Niel, Russell, Mike, Steve, Deer Creek
- iii. Water Resources – Ken Roby
- iv. Biodiversity (incl. species and habitats) – Ryan, Steve, Ken Roby
- v. Community (TEK, economics, workforce) –Maidu Summit Consortium, Sierra Institute
- vi. Lessons Learned/Synthesis (adaptive management, collaborative processes, etc.) – Sierra Institute

Task for each resource theme:

- Introductory paragraph clarifying the issues.
- Inclusion of additional assessment if necessary.
- Draft list of measurable objectives.

Timeline:

August 27<sup>th</sup> – one example template of a resource theme – Ryan Burnett (rare habitats)

August 27<sup>th</sup> – revised draft outline – Sierra Institute

Early/Mid-September – schedule strategic planning meeting – Sierra Institute

Early/Mid-September – resource themes outlined and drafted