



South Lassen Watersheds Group Plant Materials Subcommittee Meeting  
Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>; Chester Fire Department, 14:00 - 16:00

### Meeting Synopsis

A first meeting of the SLWG Plant Materials subcommittee meeting was held in Chester, CA to discuss group goals, opportunities for collaboration, and to establish next steps.

### Attendees

Steve Buckley	Lassen Volcanic National Park (LAVO)
Ben Cunningham	Maidu Summit Consortium (MSC)
Brad Graevs	Feather River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD)
Lorena Gorbet	MSC
Meredith Hackleman	MSC

### Organizational Interest/Capacity

Representatives were asked to describe their organization's vision for developing plant materials infrastructure, potential contributions, and ongoing programs and activities to be leveraged

**FRRCD:** The RCD has been working with national nonprofits to produce seedlings at a profit

- Could use seedlings in local restoration efforts

**MSC:** The MSC is interested in not just trees but native, understory species as well

- Revenue from **FRRCD** tree production could support cultivation of other plant forms
- Currently working with UC Davis and NRCS and lower elevation nurseries; have encountered challenges with outplanting in the region
- Can contribute Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in assisting with seed collection and propagation.

**LAVO:** Organizational vision is a seed-to-seed program that is capable of meeting regional restoration needs as there is currently no significant nursery with seedbanks in the region

- LAVO currently hosts a seed collection team (2-3) working in and around the Park in partnership with UC Davis, Sierra Seed Supply, and utilizing Seeds of Success model
- Stressed the importance of collecting seeds to enable plant propagation, 3-4 seed zones within the Park itself
- Storage to date has been all on site with no cold storage, curation, or database
- LAVO can offer its training ability to partner staff, interns, etc. to advance common goals

**M. Brown:** Has begun an application for a high tunnel from NRCS with the goal of producing plants for the MSC and others, and is interested in developing a native plant program

- Build connections with local schools and pursue a plant propagation model that creates jobs, specifically in the Maidu community

- M. Brown can collaborate on database creation and management, and seed storage
- Sierra InSTITUTE:** SI is interested in developing a greenhouse at its Crescent Mills site which can utilize excess heat produced by the planned bioenergy facility for operational purposes
- Interested in advancing infrastructure that provides diversified labor opportunities
  - Can apply for, or assist others in applying for, grant funding to support this effort
  - **FRRCD** can engage in educational program development at CM and neighboring property, in addition to receiving plant material for adjoining wetland conservation areas (within the scope of Army Corps of Engineers and Caltrans restrictions)
  - SI is also involved in the Greenville High School greenhouse operation and has funding to support summer high school internships

### Opportunities for Collaboration

- M. Brown and S. Buckley (LAVO) agreed to collaborate on the development of a database
- This could be housed onsite at the Mountain Maidu Cultural Center when it is built and could integrate Maidu TEK (e.g., historical distribution, use, etc.)
    - Other Tribal databases could be used as models, including different access protocols for varying groups to preserve culturally sensitive information
    - M. Brown will share information learned after an upcoming visit to the Maidu plant collection housed at UC Berkeley
  - LAVO expressed interest in developing a partnership with the MSC, including capacity building to host and manage a seed bank based in the Almanor basin over the long-term

### Funding Discussion and Opportunities

- S. Buckley estimates \$5 - \$10k in storage infrastructure investment to start
  - Options are highly variable, ranging in size and sophistication (e.g., from a chest freezer to warehouse storage facility)
  - Remember to include costs of curation (e.g., proper storage, dealing with contingencies) in a grant application
  - Partnership with LAVO presents potential cost savings (i.e., free bulk seed cleaning offered to Federal agencies by the BLM)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs has funded a seed need assessment for the Navajo nation
  - MSC has two members that are Federally recognized with access to BIA
- National Institutes of Health funds activities native food and indigenous plant production
  - Potential to tie in with food security, slow food, cottage industries, etc.
- Use of awarded Cal Fire funds to dedicate some MSC consultation hours to exploration of the use of native plant materials in forest health/restoration project design (SI)

### Action Items

- SI will create and distribute a Google spreadsheet to begin a priority species list which will *remain confidential for the time being*
  - The list will contain only species; future discussions will determine appropriate means of including cultural uses and levels of accessible information for stakeholders

- SI will explore grant opportunities related to native seed collection, storage, and plant propagation and present to the MSC at the next board meeting (January 18<sup>th</sup>)
- SI and MSC will discuss options to utilize Cal Fire consultation funds as described above
- LAVO can make botany trainings available to greenhouse interns and others (summer)
- Steve, Ben, and Lorena will report out to SLWG at the next meeting (2/7)