

# Mono County Collaborative Planning Team

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## MEETING NOTES

October 29, 2015

(Adopted January 28, 2016)

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Members present: Stacy Corless, Mono Supervisors; Jon Regelbrugge & Deb Schweizer, USFS/Inyo; Forest Becket & Greg Miller, Caltrans; Joanne Lowden, USFS/Humboldt-Toiyabe; Dale Johnson, BLM; John Wentworth, Mammoth Town Council; Erin Nordin & Judy Hohman, USFWS; Deanna Dulen, Devils Postpile National Monument; Doug Power, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center; Greg Loveland, LADWP

Members absent: Justin Nalder, Bridgeport Indian Colony; Rana Saulque, Benton Paiutes; Mike Gautier, Yosemite National Park

Staff present: Wendy Sugimura, C.D. Ritter

Guests present: Fred Stump, Mono Supervisors; Wendi Grasseschi, Mammoth Times; Danna Stroud, Sierra Nevada Conservancy; Lisa Cutting, Mono Lake Committee; Rick Boccia, Mammoth Lakes Recreation; Karen Ferrell-Ingram & Tracker Felt, citizens

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**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ATTENDEE INTRODUCTIONS:** Acting Chair Stacy Corless called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. at the Town/County Conference Room at Minaret Village Mall in Mammoth Lakes. Attendees recited the pledge of allegiance and introduced themselves.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Danna Stroud, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, reported a 1.5-hr webinar for watershed improvement program was held, recorded, and available at [sierranevada@ca.gov](mailto:sierranevada@ca.gov). She encouraged CPT members to subscribe to a fund development newsletter every six weeks that curates grant opportunities. In first round of grant funding with applications from Alpine and Mono counties, one on USFS/Inyo was funded, and the Humboldt-Toiyabe in Alpine County will be considered later. Next deadline is March 1.

### 3. MEETING NOTES

**MOTION:** Approve draft meeting notes from July 30, 2015, as submitted.  
(Regelbrugge/Wentworth. Ayes: All except Corless, who abstained due to absence.)

**4. AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:** Agencies reported on planning issues & pending projects.

**5. INYO FOREST PLAN UPDATE INCLUDING WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS:** Deb Schweizer, USFS/Inyo, reported South Lake Road paving is done, Convict Road is mostly done except rilling and work along trail.

Revision action has been quiet while plan writing occurs. Three individual plans nearly done. Fatal flaw review of inconsistencies. Meeting with DC office in January to ensure consistency. Public notice for draft EIS review. Outreach on wilderness evaluation, which is contentious. Go public with narratives in next couple weeks. Center for Biological Diversity is looking for something. Wild and Scenic River evaluation going public soon. Need good outreach on recreational and ORV.

Pacific Crest Trail has gotten political legs on west side; some are suing for mountain bike access. Lively dialog on that topic. Hearing concerns from various user groups for more/less use and types of

use. Planners have done good work, should be done shortly. Letter of support on process received from Inyo County; one from Mono too? Volunteered, not requested. Corless noted it has not risen to BOS level, but could consider.

Schweizer indicated Inyo was skeptical initially. Not INF's job to advocate for or against wilderness. Go through objective process. Certain groups are less favorable to process.

**6. EASTERN SIERRA RECREATION COLLABORATIVE – UPDATE:** John Wentworth and Danna Stroud are on ESRC's leadership team. The "Rule" is 2012 Planning Rule. Eight early-adopter forests include Inyo National Forest. Eastern Sierra is strong on collaboration; e.g., sage grouse. Enormous recreation opportunities exist on public lands in Mono. When gateway communities met a year ago to draft recreation strategy and formalize values and principles, 52 desired conditions emerged. Key document is Framework for Sustainable Recreation. Counties and towns sent letters requesting reasonable extension of deadline. How to bring communities together on love of public land? Wide cross section of users at conference. Outdoor recreation movement's having tangible effects. What role will Eastern Sierra play? Proud heritage in region. Outdoor recreation is \$760 billion industry. USFS is focusing on core values. Sustain, deliver, apply, excel. Mammoth's Measure R funds could be used for maintenance. Expand scope beyond Forest Plan revision, collaborate with targeted regional partners. Danna Stroud noted campground concessionaires convened to better connect people to public lands through recreation.

**7. LADWP HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP):** Judy Hohman, US Fish & Wildlife Service, stated LADWP is not a federal agency, so needs an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and Habitat Conservation Plan for ITP. Might need NEPA, biological opinion. Implementing agreement, findings document, decision document, and ultimately the ITP itself that references above documents. Process is applicant-driven, to write itself, contract to consultant firm. When done, it must meet all issuance criteria: taking will be incidental, minimize and mitigate impacts of such taking (CDFW requires full mitigation), adequate funding, and "no surprises." HCP format plan was shown, including conservation program, implementation, funding, and alternatives. Public notification process is enacted in federal register, with 60 days for Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Statement. Public comments addressed in Findings document. After public comment, USFWS conducts series of steps.

Draft LADWP Habitat Conservation Plan requested ITP from USFWS. Changes to operation and maintenance activities and land management activities, and changes by other land managers for improving habitats for listed species. LADWP concerned that ESA-listed species could increase in future. LADWP wants coverage for seven species (five listed, two not). Permit term is 10 years. Land management activities include livestock grazing, water gathering, distribution, and storage. Compliance monitoring involved. Comment period extension requested, adding 30 days.

**8. GENERAL PLAN/REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE:** Wendy Sugimura, Mono Community Development, gave procedural update on all elements involved. Out on RPAC tour for questions. Got 10-11 comment letters. Working on response to comments, taking to Planning Commission Nov. 12 for recommendation to BOS. If all goes well at hearing, BOS hearing Dec. 8.

**9. DISCUSSION OF TRI-VALLEY FLOODING:** Fred Stump, Mono County Supervisor, reported flooding a week ago Sunday, second in four months. Stimulated need for agency conversations on runoff/erosion issues. Include Round Fire area for erosion control. Acknowledged LADWP attendee.

Thunderstorm activity triggered Hwy 6 corridor events. Nobody for residents to contact except Supervisor Stump. Emergency measures taken. BLM initiated LADWP conversations on erosion channels created. Community looking for protection. "Flood control" triggers liability. Maybe call it erosion control instead. Mile of Hwy 6 was overtopped.

Caltrans will prepare in-depth analysis for LTC Nov. 9. Get USFS involved. Johnson reported Manzanar event also occurred. Swall Meadows erosion control needed. Requested Nov. 3 BOS

agenda item: El Nino preparation. No decisions, funding out of contingency fund. Air District pressured by public about smoke. Letter formulated with Inyo BOS, recognized efforts, not pointing fingers. Asked for involvement, acknowledge tree kill on west side. Realities of fire in future. Air Board if regional. District still being sued on CD4, review only, no new info. Constituents want something done. Ditch in west Chalfant cleaned, did its job. Cinnamon Ranch area had runoff from BLM land.

Formalized follow-up? Good idea. Report on Tri-Valley and Swall Meadows erosion control.

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Devils Postpile draft State of the Parks report; 2) Tri-Valley/Round Fire erosion control; 3) NRCS on grant opportunity; 4) Mono sustainable agriculture grant; 5) Conway Ranch.

**11. ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, January 28, 2016, at 9 a.m.

*Prepared by CD Ritter, CPT secretary*