

# Yuba Forest Network

## Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting Notes

November 4th, 2022

10 am – 11:30 am

### Agenda

**Participants:** Anne Marie Holt, Kat Perlman, Billy Spearing, Lis Olaerts, Julie Fair, Joe Flannery, Ana Santos, Rosie Gonzalez, Michael Bagley, Allison Thomson, Amy Irani, Korey Champe, Erin Andrew, Amye Oste, Jeff Lauder, Keri Rinne, Don Rivenes, Alex Keeble-Toll, Carmen Bowen, Scott Conway, Pa Yang

### Announcements

- 1) **North Yuba Forest Partnership**
  - a) Draft EIS to be published on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>: the document will be available to the public at that time. Information is forthcoming on public meeting dates, press releases, and links to the DEIS website
- 2) **YFN**
  - a. The Yuba Forest Network will have a new webpage on the SYRCL website, including a new grant resources page
    - i. This will be up and running in the next couple of weeks, will be announced to the Network
- 3) **Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps Office** is applying for funds through the Landscape Conservation Corps
  - a. Looking for forest restoration projects that need match- reach out to Jeff Lauder if interested [jeff@sierrastreamsinstitute.org](mailto:jeff@sierrastreamsinstitute.org)
- 4) **Nevada County Fire Safe Council:** Notice to proceed came through for chipping and green waste grant- you can now submit requests for roadside chipping, info for applications is on NCFSC website: [Fire Safe Council of Nevada County - Our Mission \(areyoufiresafe.com\)](https://www.arenafiresafe.com)
- 5) **NRCS Joint Chief Landscape Restoration Initiative Program:** Pa Yang
  - a. Partnership between landowners and foresters with NRCS- trying to mitigate wildfire risk, protect water quality
  - b. Funded 17 projects across United States this year- joint project collaboratives – looking to fund projects that are NEPA ready
  - c. [Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov)
- 6) **Yuba College:** Carmen Bowen and Korey Champe
  - a. A new program in environmental studies is starting in fall 2023 offering a GIS certificate, a watershed management certificate, and a soil conservation certificate
  - b. Yuba College wants to connect with groups in the region about placing students for internships, how to best train and prepare students, etc.
  - c. Open call to those interested in being part of the advisory board – email Carmen at [cbowen@yccd.edu](mailto:cbowen@yccd.edu)

### Presentations

California's 30x30 Initiative: Lis Olaerts Sierra Nevada Alliance- [presentation](#) linked here

- 30x30 Sierra Nevada Regional Group: a group of over 80 organizations in the Sierra Nevada focused on California's 30x30 Initiative with active regional groups throughout the state and statewide working groups and committees
  - Regional groups meet monthly to share relevant info, grant opportunities
  - Working on Sierra Nevada 30x30 project list, working with Sierra Business Council, coordinating with state and regional efforts
  - The goal is to leverage this opportunity to advance conservation projects in Sierra Nevada
- The 30x30 Initiative is focused on conserving 30% of lands within state by 2030
  - US has committed to 30x30 goal as well, other countries have also
- **CA 30x30 Initiative Timeline**
  - Governor Newsome signed "Nature Based Solutions Executive Order" in October 2020
  - 2021 President Biden signed 30x30 Executive Order
  - May 2021: America the Beautiful Report published, which outlined how to meet 30x30 goals
  - April 2022: President Biden allocated \$1 billion for America the Beautiful projects
  - May 2022: CA Natural Resources Agency released Pathways to 30x30 Strategy Document
  - August 2022: FY 22/23 California budget outlined over \$1.6 billion for 30x30 projects
  - Sept 2022- Bill AB2278- [AB 2278 - California Assembly \(20212022\) - Open States](#)
    - requires annual reporting on CA's progress to 30x30- helps solidify 30x30 as a reality, ensures that 30x30 persists despite administration change
- California Executive Order N-82-20: elevated role of natural and working lands in building climate resilience; advanced biodiversity conservation as administrative priority,
  - Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy: [Governor Newsom Joins Groundbreaking for World's Largest Wildlife Crossing as State Launches Nature-Based Strategies to Fight Climate Change and Protect Biodiversity | California Governor](#)
- Pathways to 30x30 document: intended to accelerate regionally led conservation/regional plans, enhance conservation of existing public lands, execute strategic land acquisitions, expand and accelerate restoration (a big goal) and long-term stewardship
- **CA 30x30 Goals:** focusing on quality and consistence of newly conserved areas, with focuses on biodiversity, access, climate change
  - CA 30x30 Commitments: Tribal partnership, equity, and economy
- CalNature tool: [www.californianature.ca.gov](http://www.californianature.ca.gov)- many aspects to this tool, focus on biodiversity and climate resilience
- **Nature-Based Solutions Budget Summary for FY 22-23:**
  - \$1.53 billion to efforts on land acquisition and habitat restoration; \$118 million to efforts focused on wildlife corridors; \$70 million for tribal nature-based solutions; \$661 million for Climate Smart Land
  - California Natural Resources Agency: Sierra Nevada Regional Group been reaching out to different funding agencies to find out how to allocate this budget
  - CRNA does not want to create new funding mechanisms; they want to allocate budget to existing funding mechanisms - \$372 million available for projects in Sierra Nevada region
  - Wildlife Conservation Board is actively looking for projects- they have \$1 billion available for projects. They have a single continuous grant application process, where applicants can consult with staff at any time, and applications don't need to determine which WCB Program their projects fit best
- **Supporting Agencies** - CRNA having 30x30 Expo with all funding agencies on **Nov. 10 at 10:30am** for funding agents will talk about their programs

- CDFW- supporting 30x30 through fish and wildlife management, watershed restoration planning and protection, and land acquisition- multiple bond and grant programs, regional offices
- DOC also has grant program and will be supporting 30x30- \$14 million for planning and capacity for climate smart lands to support non-profits, communities on the ground for capacity building
- SNC- \$26 million for projects, including new Landscape Grant Pilot Program
- Department of Water Resources, Cal FIRE have funding as well

**LandTendr: Joe Flannery, Vibrant Planet- [presentation linked here](#)**

- LandTendr: Cloud-Based Planning and Monitoring Tool, built for collaboratives, organizations, agencies
  - Intended to help people work together rather than be siloed – this tool is meant to be democratized
  - Increasing capacity: breaking down vertical silos to increase pace and scale of restoration
- The NYFP is an example of creating an open system, an open methodology, developing and creating tools and systems for large-scale planning. **How did NYFP make things happen?**
  - First- Partnership decided that pace and scale of analyzing landscape scale disturbances needs a more robust package, including more remotely sensed data, lidar, etc.
  - Then, came up with system for how to evaluate true values of a variety of assets by creating **SARAs**, Strategic Areas, Resources, and Assets, using a socioecological framework to evaluate landscape features that have societal values.
  - Then came up with standardized metric for where to treat on a landscape called an **RROI**, a Restorative Return on Investment, to estimate treatment locations so they can figure out how to view and prioritize landscape
  - Created system so they can determine at scale how to use this RROI metric
- **How is all of this encapsulated in this software program?**
  - How can we emulate this methodology and the systems developed? NYFP has raised over \$50 million for this watershed
  - LandTendr operationalizes all of these methodologies and systems and allows others to **duplicate it elsewhere**
  - **LandTendr is a decision support system-** based on science that empowers decision-makers to make their own decisions. Other support tools have some decisions already made- this tool allows groups to determine their own priorities on the landscape
  - System allows users to compete landscape-level analysis and project prioritizations using data and models, a landscape system to address landscape disturbances
- **General Process for Using LandTendr**
  - Can outline Planning Area within Stewardship Atlas
  - Data layers involving disturbance hazard layers, fire and drought hazards, can be added
  - SARAs- Strategic Areas, Resources, and Assets – transportation, utilities, safety zones, recreation facilities, animal species and communities, plants, etc. can be selected
  - Can select which potential management/treatment types for landscapes- allows you to start to measure avoided loss based on things like operability, land ownership, etc. used to measure reduction in risk

- Can draw planning area anywhere in Stewardship Atlas, or can upload shapefile i.e. Nevada County, then set your priorities, then weight your objectives (assets, safety, recreation, biodiversity, etc)
- Set your constraints: cost to treat, project size, budget per project, number of projects
- **This will pop out your priority projects across the landscape- based on amount of risk reduction, with details per project**
  - Can then look at comparisons of projects once they are outlined and prioritized- can look at how objectives, assets, safety, recreation, biodiversity, carbon, water benefits, etc.
  - Can look at objective effects over time for different objectives
- For more information, reach out to [Joe@vibrantplanet.net](mailto:Joe@vibrantplanet.net)

## **Next Steps**

- 1) CRNA having 30x30 Expo with all funding agencies on **Nov. 10 at 10:30am** for funding agents will talk about their programs – reach out to Lis Olearts for more information on this for general 30x30 inquiries, contact Liesbet Olaerts at [liesbet@sierranevadaalliance.org](mailto:liesbet@sierranevadaalliance.org)
- 2) For more information on Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps opportunities, reach out to Jeff Lauder at [jeff@sierrastreamsinstitute.org](mailto:jeff@sierrastreamsinstitute.org)
- 3) For more information on Nevada County Fire Safe Council’s Chipping and Green Waste Program, visit their website at [Fire Safe Council of Nevada County - Our Mission \(areyoufiresafe.com\)](http://Fire Safe Council of Nevada County - Our Mission (areyoufiresafe.com))
- 4) For more information on the LandTendr tool and Vibrant Planet’s work, reach out to Joe Flannery at [Joe@vibrantplanet.net](mailto:Joe@vibrantplanet.net)
- 5) If you are interested in being on the advisory board for Yuba College’s new environmental program, email Carmen Bowen at [cbowen@yccd.edu](mailto:cbowen@yccd.edu)
- 6) If interested in the NRCS’ Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration Partner Initiative, email Pa Yang at [pa.yang@usda.gov](mailto:pa.yang@usda.gov)

**Our next meeting is scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 10:00am**

**Visit: [yubariver.org/yuba-forest-network](http://yubariver.org/yuba-forest-network)**

Contact: Anne Marie Holt, [annemarie@yubariver.org](mailto:annemarie@yubariver.org), 530-265-5961 x216