

The Sierra Meadows Partnership and the Sierra Meadows Strategy: A collaboration and roadmap for increasing the pace, scale and efficacy of Sierra meadows restoration and protection



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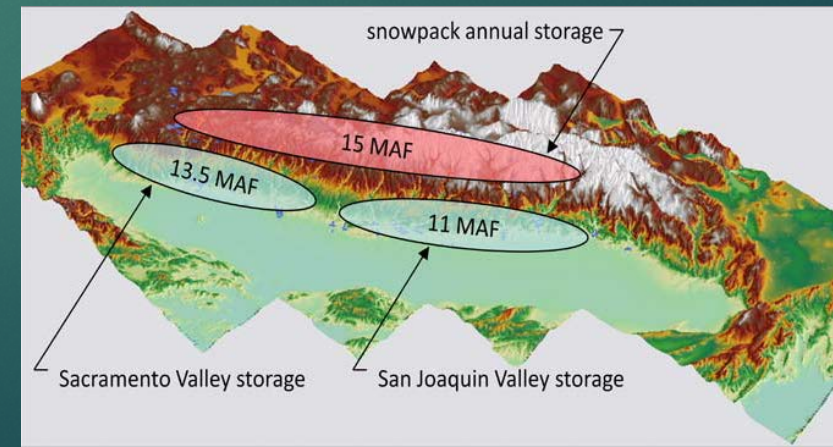
Riparian Summit

Davis, CA

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California's Sierra Nevada

- ▶ Sierra Nevada are a fundamental and integral component of California's water infrastructure.
 - ▶ Snowpack driven system
 - ▶ ~60% of California's domestic water
 - ▶ Critical source of retention waters
 - ▶ ~15% of California's energy via hydropower
 - ▶ Fundamental to local livelihoods and CA economy-est ~\$4 billion/yr
- ▶ Sierra Nevada watersheds are home to an abundance of aquatic systems, plants and animals
- ▶ There are many unique components i.e., oak woodlands, meadows
- ▶ Meadows are a critical component of Sierra Nevada watersheds, including headwater areas.



Why meadows matter

- ~18,700 meadows
- ~200,000 acres
- Provide important, valuable ecological services for people, flora and fauna
 - Water retention
 - Water quality
 - Aquatic habitats
 - Flood attenuation
 - GHG sequestration
 - Feeders to streams and rivers
 - Recreational & spiritual connections
- ~ 40-60% degraded

Historical and contemporary threats include:

- Fire management
- Land use practices
- A changing climate



What's being done: Evolution of a meadows movement



~ 2010 A **plan**,
with **funding**
support, is
developed



~2012-2014 **Political momentum** begins
supporting
headwaters and
meadows

Feb, 2014 Calistoga I: *The building of a collective stakeholder vision*



Outcome: Need for a comprehensive strategy



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Meadow Restoration Survey

I. Background Information

Name _____
Date _____
Organization/Agency Affiliation _____
Name of Meadow Restoration Project _____
Brief Summary of Project _____



CATEGORIES	COMPONENTS	RESOURCES
Existing Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limiting factors Historic change Condition trajectory Future threats Resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species information Habitat condition Landscape context Landuse/Management Climate
Desired Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-Scale Targets (structure/ function) Species/ Community Habitat/ Ecosystem Landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat type definitions Ecoregional context Habitat Potential Carrying capacity Appropriate indicators
SMART Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to achieve desired conditions Reduce/ eliminate LFs Prioritized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological/ ecological metrics Conservation priorities Climate considerations
Targeted Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve objectives Restore/ enhance structure/ function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the ground monitoring information Effectiveness assessments Lessons learned

Feb, 2016

Calistoga II: *Strategy and Partnership development*

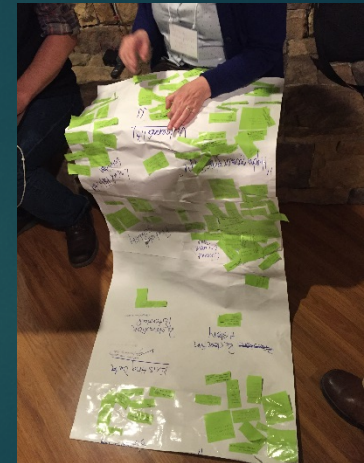


Outcome:

- Framework and scope for Sierra Meadows Strategy
- Formation of Sierra Meadows Partnership



Feb. 2017, Calistoga III: *Sierra Meadows Strategy is completed, MOU signed*

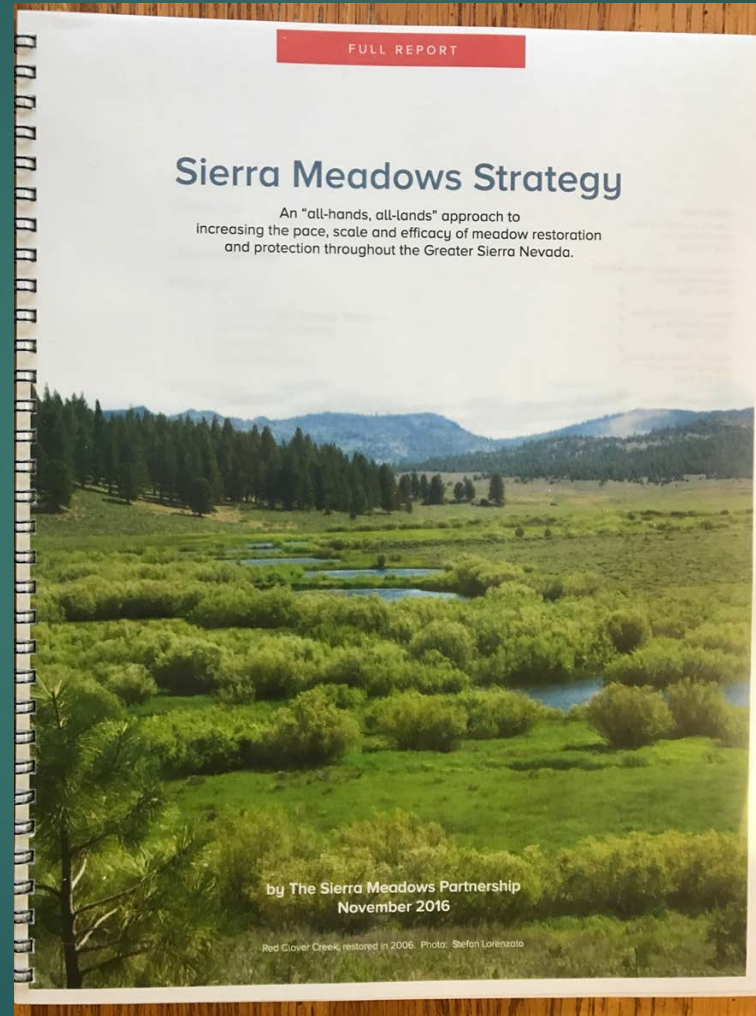


- The shared vision of the *Sierra Meadows Partnership* is a greater Sierra Nevada Region with healthy and resilient meadows that provide sustained goods and services to benefit flora, fauna and people .
- Overarching goal: Restore and protect 30,000 acres across the Sierra Nevada in 15 years!



What we accomplished

Collective action that created a living document providing a clear, concise set of goals, objectives, approaches, actions and metrics, as well as a prioritization framework, to guide Sierra meadow protection, management, restoration, research and potential investment through 2030.



Outline:

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Overview
- III. Background
- IV. Desired Conditions and Associated Goals
- V. Guiding Approaches, Actions & Milestones
- VI. Next Steps: Applying the Meadows Strategy
- VII. Citations

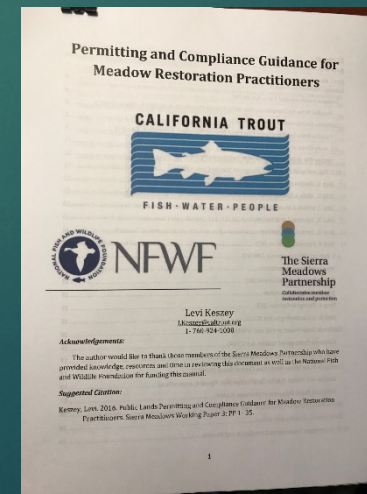
Next steps: Implement, track progress and continue the evolution of a Partnership and Strategy



Priority next steps

- Research needs priorities.
- Improving implementation capacity and effectiveness
- Streamlining planning and permitting
- Broadening stakeholder engagement and outreach materials
- Region-wide prioritization approach
- Strategy monitoring and evaluation schema

Proposed Sierra Meadows Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan



Outcomes and lessons learned

- A Partnership and unified vision
- A pathway forward grounded in science
- Leveraged political, financial and capacity support
- Creating space and time for thoughtful dialogue is beneficial
- Material change requires understanding, patience and commitment
- Persistence, leadership and conviction is important
- Nothing is perfect and the work is dynamic



Thank you!

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The Sierra
Meadows
Partnership

Collaborative meadow
restoration and protection