



ESCCRP Fall 2022 Newsletter



Hello STAKEHOLDERS

It's been a wild ride! After nearly two years of collaboration and diligent project development, we are steadfast on our journey to expanding local forest health and natural resource management capacity.

We are excited to issue our first bi-annual ESCCRP Stakeholder Newsletter and share our project progress and successes!

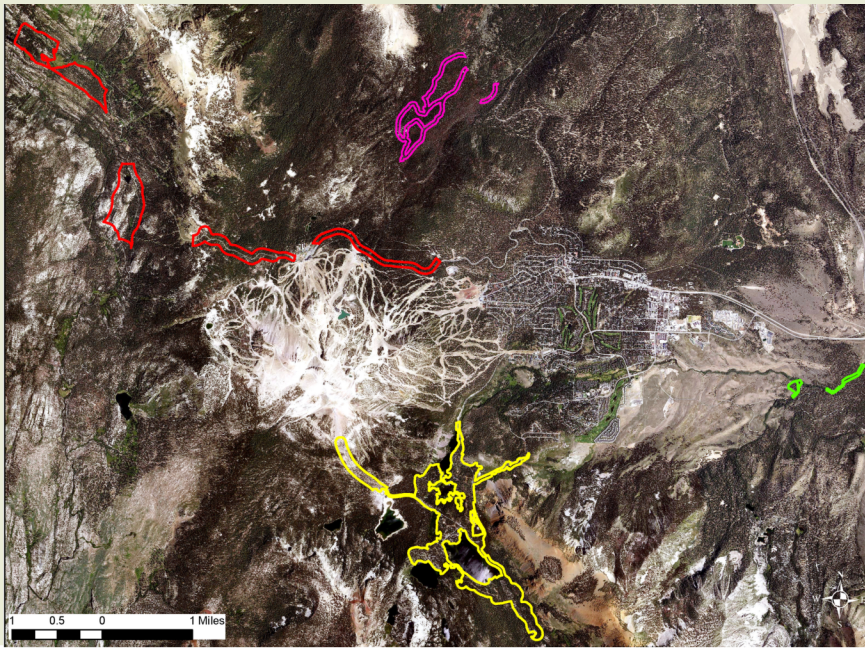
Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Eastern Sierra!



Whitebark Institute's new workforce includes both Environmental Planning & Implementation Staff!

♥ Many thanks, the ESCCRP Team

Implementation Updates



PHASE I (APR-AUG 2022)	ACRES
 Inyo Craters hazard tree removal	171
 Reds Meadow thinning	448
 Aspen restoration conifer encroachment thinning	18
 Lakes Basin pile burning	336
TOTAL ACRES COMPLETED	973

BEFORE

AFTER



UPCOMING UNITS FOR TREATMENT

FALL 2022 → Prescribed burn in Reds Meadow (300 acres) / Planning implementation for 2023
 WINTER-SPRING 2023 → Pile burning in Lakes Basin



Funding for this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Forest Health Program.

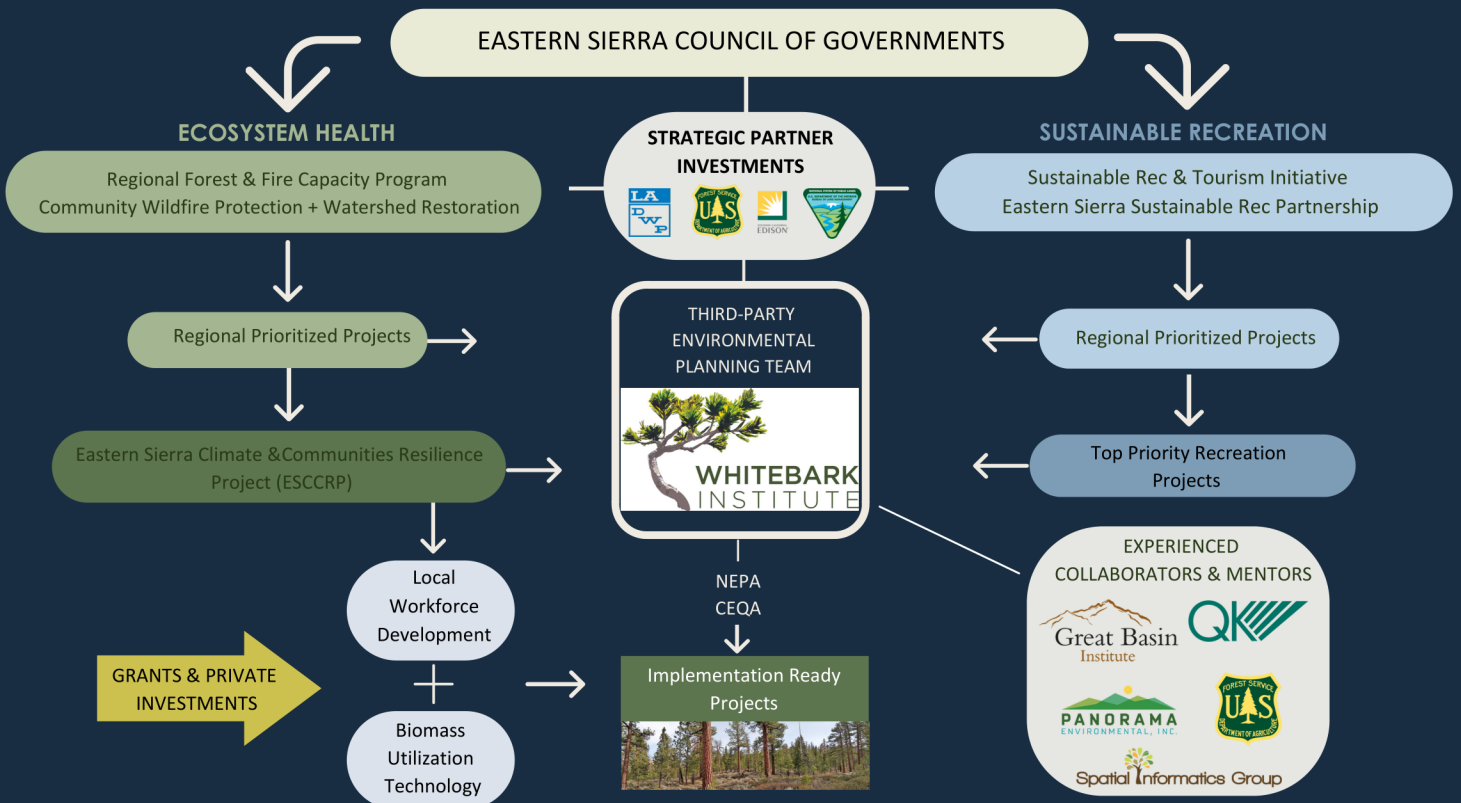
The Forest Health Program is a part of California Climate Investments (CCI), a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in disadvantaged communities.



Planning Updates

Eastern Sierra Pace & Scale Accelerator

The Whitebark Institute has hired a locally based Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) and partnered with senior consulting firms and retired USFS staff to begin environmental planning services in accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) for the ESCCRP, the Eastern Sierra Council of Government's (ESCOG) top priority Ecosystem Health project. By investing in local workforce and relationships, the accelerator hopes to align early with Inyo National Forest to deliver a NEPA document that works well for the agency and establishes trust for future environmental planning needs on other important projects.



Funding for this project provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1, CWC § 79707).



ESCCRP Initial Planning Grant

We are working to deliver and close out on this grant this October. We are so grateful to SNC for supporting this work and allowing us time and a supporting budget to develop proposed actions and conduct a needs assessment for this project!



Funding for this project provided by the State of California, Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities Program.

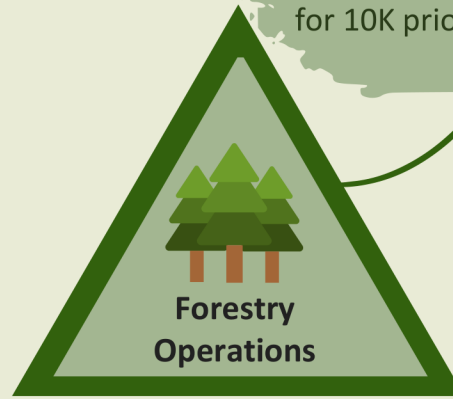


Needs Assessment Progress Report

Tier 1 Prioritization has identified 10 K priority acres to support Goal #1 of the ESCCRP.

Cost assessments and optimal removal methods for 10K priority acres has been completed= \$30 M.

Working with USFS on Tier 3 Prioritization tool with Pacific SW Research Station for larger project.



Monitoring Plan development is about to begin per deliverables for CDFW NEPA Planning Grant and is intended to help allow for adaptive management and effectiveness monitoring throughout the life of the project.

Welcome Heidi Porras!
Outreach & Education
Coordinator

[Communication Survey](#)
is out awaiting your
input. Please Circulate!

Initial translations and
content development
has begun.



Completed water and GHG benefits reports for ESCCRP.

Working with State Wildfire Task Force players to position the project for Landscape Investment Strategy funding soon.

Working with Blue Forest Conservation to identify beneficiaries of the work and quantify benefits.

SNC has invited us back.

Short Term biomass planning report completed.

Long term biomass planning report completed.

Still awaiting the rise grant award announcements for workforce development. Stay tuned!

Working with Inyo County of Office of Education to explore the development of a CCC crew in the Owens Valley on a permanent basis to support fuels reduction projects.