Agenda Item XV
Attachment A

Time for Change:

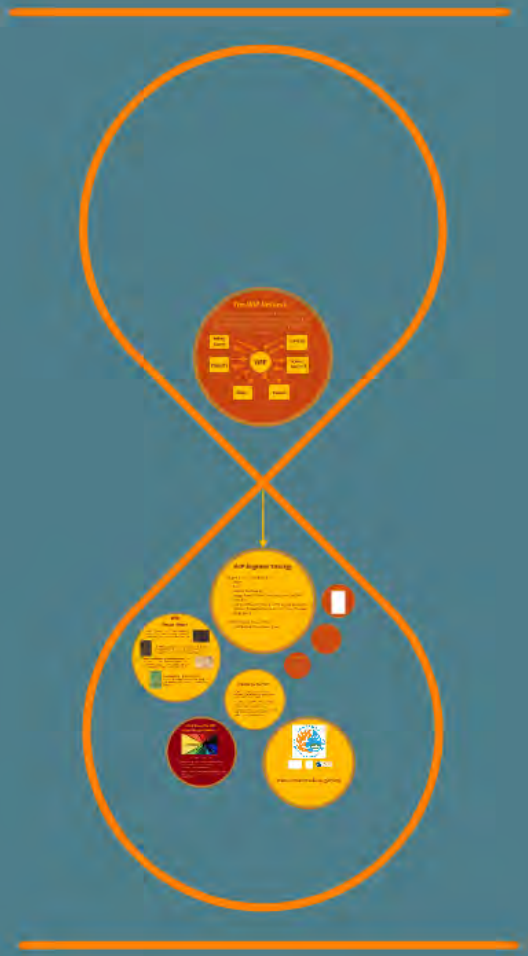
Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program

SIERRA NEVADA WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

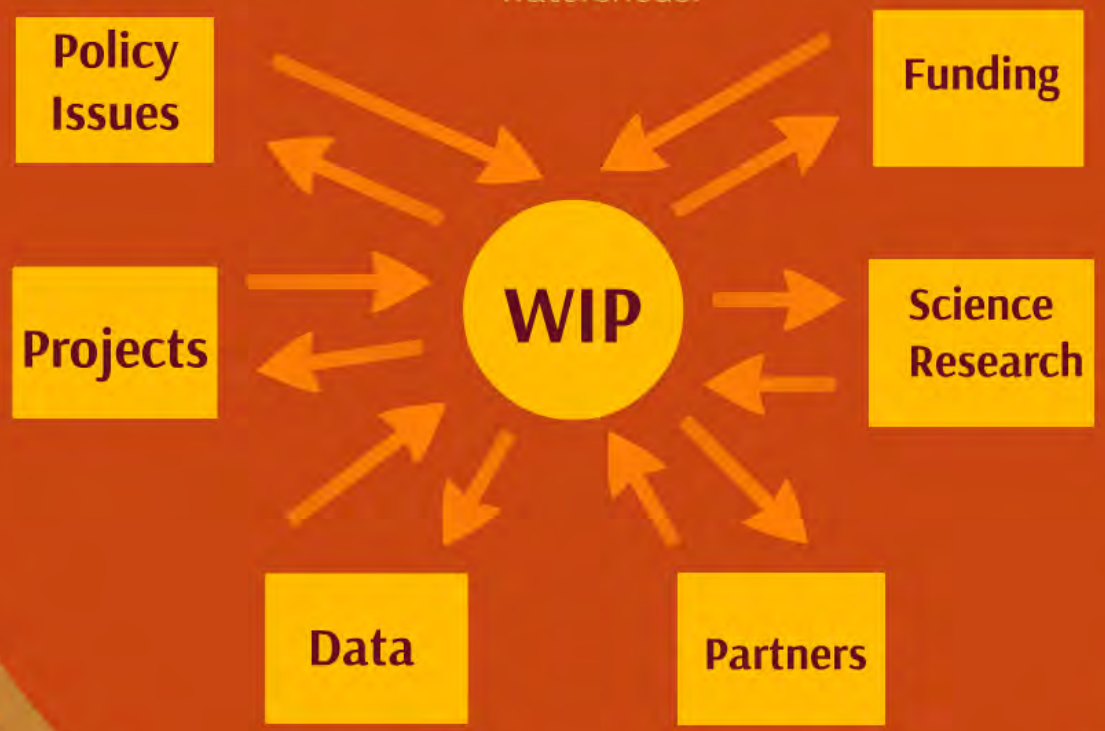
Pacific Southwest Region

CALIFORNIA natural resources AGENCY



The WIP Network

Our goal is to eventually make the WIP the hub of a network connecting partners to data, funding, projects and each other in order to better make the case for restoration in the Sierra Nevada, and focus and leverage our resources to restore the health of our watersheds.



WIP Regional Strategy

Regional Level Issue Portfolios

- Water
- Fire
- Habitat/Biodiversity
- Longer-Term, Stable Carbon Sequestration/GHG Emissions
- Common Threads: Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Climate Change Resilience, Infrastructure, Economy, Public Health

Watershed Level Assessments

- 16 Watershed Assessment Areas

Photo Credit: Luxomedia

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16 Watershed Assessment Areas

Watershed Level Assessments

Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council (SCRMC) is gathering the following information for each of our 16 watershed assessment areas:

- Restoration plans, assessments, and initiatives
- Critical contacts for groups working in those watershed assessment areas
- Demographic information
- Wood processing/biomass infrastructure
- Infrastructure – water, utility, transportation
- Data layers/maps
- Waterways
- Land Ownership
- Land Use
- Fire Threat
- Fire History
- Fire Return Interval and Departure (FRID)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Crop reports
- Reports, Studies, and Plans
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
- Collaborative Groups
- Key Stakeholders
- In-watershed and downstream beneficiaries
- Model Projects

Public Lands Assessments

- Identification of watershed restoration needs and estimated costs by National Forests
  - Meadow Restoration
  - Road Sediment Reduction Treatments
  - Aquatic Organism Passage
  - Invasive Species Removal
  - Hydraulic Mining Restoration
  - Forest Health/Fuels Reduction Treatments
  - Others may be added or subtracted depending on conditions on a particular forest
- Pilot assessment underway on Bureau of Land Management lands
- Working with other public land managers such as National Park Service on assessments

WIP
Focus Areas

Policy: If impeding policy challenges are not addressed, we cannot make progress towards healthy and resilient Sierra Nevada Watersheds.

Photo Credit: Luxomedia

Funding: Includes tracking existing investment, focusing existing funding sources and identifying new funding sources for investment in Sierra Nevada Watersheds

Project Identification and Implementation: Use watershed assessments to identify watershed restoration needs/costs to increase the pace and scale of restoration across the Sierra Nevada.

Photo credit: Kelly Sikkema

Photo credit: Jeff Kubina

Communication: The success of WIP Communication goals rely upon the support and participation of our partners to help amplify its message.

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Timeline for the WIP

- Fall 2015-Spring 2016: complete watershed assessments; track present investments and focus existing funding in Sierra Nevada watersheds
- Spring 2016 - Spring 2017 and beyond: Refine watershed assessments and focus new funding sources in Sierra Nevada Watersheds
- Present-Ongoing: Address policy issues and continue to increase investment in order to ensure implementation of restoration projects.

What Does the WIP Mean for our Partners?

Photo by Denise Chan

The WIP is designed to:

- **Harmonize, Leverage, Connect** and **Amplify** our partners and their efforts, to ensure more effective initiatives, programs and projects.
- **Provide a basis for exploring new models** for getting needed restoration work done more effectively at the watershed level.

n of restoration projects.

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FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Pacific Southwest Region

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