South Sierra IRWMP –November 18, 2009
Meeting Notes

Build effectiveness of regional planning: increase capacity for collaboration, public involvement, and integrated strategies

- More outreach and collaboration-building among stakeholders to increase likelihood that they will work together on policies, plans and projects
- Train participating entities on best practices in multi-benefit/integrated management strategies
- Improved public education and involvement – Agencies should provide forums for public discussion
- Construct data base showing all CEQA/NEPA documents in process (example: USFS Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA)) Take clearinghouse data and filter by type of project, region, etc. Send out to interested people.
- Frame cumulative effects analyses – streamline and enhance the value of the analysis for everyone.
- Identify beneficiaries of region's ecosystem services/benefits to increase the likelihood of future contributions to watershed health. Invite folks into the process who don't realize they are beneficiaries.

Maximize Data Collection, Management and Sharing

- Create a web portal that puts all planning documents and studies for the area on line, and has annotated links describing what information is available, when it was created, etc. *Draw data from Counties and CEQA/NEPA documents, grey literature, historic studies, etc. Provide hot-lines to on-line data sets that are regularly updated. Assist with sharing between County departments (as well as other entities). A good place to start is to look at existing portals (DWR, etc.)*
- Synthesize interagency databases from existing agency sets, e.g., SS Geographic Information Coop as possible base data set.
- Put together baseline watershed conditions for purposes of climate change, etc.

Studies

- Assess options for water storage infrastructure where needed. *This can be water recharge as well as storage.*
- Assess small system water quality problems and provide feasibility analysis of options to correct problems
- Design a study that will determine the availability of water in the fractured rock system - hydrologic capacity (*look at Fresno County model. Compare with Madera County model.*) Come to agreement on data, methodology, results
- Feasibility study to return sewer effluent to river (water recycling)
- Impact of riparian septic systems on water quality – feasibility study for sewers to replace them

Plans

- Watershed plans

- Habitat Conservation Plans - Synergize existing efforts and plans regarding habitat conservation
- Prioritize Oak Woodland sites for protection
- Prioritize meadows for restoration

Identify best practices and resources, make available to agencies and public

- Fuel reduction for fire safety (prevent erosion, run-off, in-filling of lakes, etc.)
- Fire-resistant development,
- Land use to minimize environmental impact (cluster development),
- Drought tolerant and Native landscaping, sustainable garden practices
- Floodplain management/development
- Low-impact development
- Riparian protection through fencing, grazing rotation, additional water availability, etc. (See Finegold Creek project)
- Integrated strategies for increasing water supply

Demonstration Projects (cannot be done with IRWMP grant, but should be included in plan)

- Flood control projects (floodplain, etc.) that have multiple benefits (habitat, water quality, etc.)
- Fuel management for fire safety and water production
- Invasive species removal (Arundo, Tamarisk, Scarlet Wisteria)
- Riparian protection through fencing, grazing rotation, additional water availability, etc. (See Finegold Creek project)
- Total exclusion of development from certain sensitive watersheds
- Encourage native plants (fire resistant/drought tolerant) in public and private landscaping
- More detailed vegetation mapping of region
- Meadow restoration
- Integrated strategies for increasing water supply