

2014 NFWF Meadows Workshop Agenda



The Goal: Bring together leaders from land management agencies, academia, non-profits, and source funders involved in meadow restoration to identify key strategies and metrics to enhance the health and long-term viability of Sierra Nevada and Cascades meadow ecosystems. A particular emphasis of the workshop includes synthesizing the state of work centered on meadow restoration, identification of appropriate monitoring metrics along with monitoring, evaluation of methodologies, and developing recommendations that will inform the National Forest management planning processes. A secondary emphasis includes gathering information that will guide potential revisions to the NFWF Sierra Nevada Meadows Business Plan. This workshop will include a series of discussions led by experts in their respective field. Workshop participants are expected to be actively engaged in these discussions and be solution oriented.

Where: Mayacamas Ranch, Calistoga, CA. Mayacamas is an inspiring locale located on 80 acres of oak woodlands 10 minutes north of Calistoga, CA. The venue is all inclusive, providing lodging, meals, and meeting facilities. For more information on the venue, please visit: <http://www.mayacamasranch.com/>

When: Arriving: February 3, 4:00 pm and **Departing:** February 5, 2:30 pm.

Monday Evening: Welcome Dinner and Meadows Roundtable

4:00 PM: Mayacamas Lodging Check-In Begins

6:00 PM-8:00 PM: Welcome Dinner

There will be an orientation dinner and roundtable discussion about meadow projects participants are involved with. The objective of Monday's discussion is to bring participants together in an informal setting to better understand the scope and extent of meadow projects that participants are working on, or have worked on in the past.

Tuesday Morning: Introductions and Meadows Survey Synthesis

8:00 AM-8:30 AM: Welcome, Introductions, and Workshop Overview

Session Leads: Mark Drew

8:30 AM-9:15 AM: (Session 1) NFWF Meadows Survey Results

Session Leads: Mark Drew, Andrew Skaggs

The objective of this session is to present and discuss the results from the NFWF meadows survey, and to share the current status of meadow assessments and restoration activities to enable participants to become familiar with the work being done, extent to which monitoring is occurring, the methods being used, and to identify obstacles for future monitoring and evaluation.

9:20 AM-10:30 AM: (Session 2) Desired Meadow Conditions and Trends

Session Leads: Rene Henery, FS, Other

The objective of this session is to discuss desired conditions for meadow ecosystems, habitats, and the appropriate process for defining them. This session is designed to establish context for the workshop, through examination of the interplay between desired conditions, metrics and monitoring, and their collective role in conservation planning, adaptive management, and restoration to achieving goals. Desired outcomes from this session include an improved understanding of desired meadow conditions and their application in conservation and management, and a sense of the appropriate process for characterizing desired meadow conditions.

10:30 AM-11:00AM: Break

11:00 AM-12:00 PM: (Session 3) Data Collection and Information Gathering

Session Leads: Kurt Fesenmyer, Ryan Peek, NFWF

The objective of this session is to present two current databases and discuss the utility of common meadow related databases that are readily available. This session will discuss the utility of the NFWF meadows survey and discuss the good, the not so good, and how to best utilize results and improve information gathering. Some desired outcomes include a discussion of Trout Unlimited and UC Davis' meadows databases, and also identify how to improve the robustness and accessibility of these data, making them readily available to meadows practitioners.

12:00 PM-1:00 PM: Lunch

Tuesday Afternoon: Monitoring, Metrics, Methodologies, and Focal Species

The objective of this session is to present information specific to proposed metrics and monitoring efforts that have taken place and for future application of these metrics. A second objective is to discuss and ideally reach consensus about which methods and metrics should be used to track progress on meadow restoration efforts. Information derived from this session will help to inform NFWF Business Plan revisions as well as state and federal agency planning processes as it pertains to meadow restoration efforts.

1:00 PM-2:20 PM: (Session 4) Conservation Strategies and Metrics Moving Forward

Session Leads: Rene Henery, Jim Wilcox, Mathew Foster

The goal of this session is to improve how we measure and track progress on meadow restoration strategies and achieve conservation goals using metrics and conservation strategies. Outcomes will include a discussion regarding the implementation of the Sierra Nevada Meadows Business Plan, current conservation strategies within the plan, and proposed changes to conservation strategies. Additionally, we will discuss ecosystem functionality metrics and identify goals for tracking these metrics.

2:20 PM-2:40 PM: Break

2:40 PM-4:00 PM: (Session 5) Methodologies for Monitoring and Evaluating Meadows

Session Leads: Sabra Purdy, Luke Hunt, Amy Merrill, Agency

The purpose of this session is to discuss methodologies for monitoring and evaluation of meadow restoration and management. This session will review current monitoring tools and methodologies being used, and identify gaps and opportunities for future monitoring and evaluation.

The desired outcome from this discussion will be to identify appropriate tools and methodologies that quantify and evaluate restoration goals throughout the Sierra Nevada and Cascades.

4:00 PM-5:00 PM: (Breakout Session A) Focal Species Metrics Breakout Session

There are three specific objectives for this breakout session: (1) agreement on metrics which will be close to completion based on survey and work prior to workshop, (2) identification of goals/metrics agreed upon, and (3) a discussion regarding goals and objectives to achieve desired conditions for each focal species. For each focal species, the breakout groups will identify restoration targets and identify which protocols and metrics that should be utilized.

- Fish-Golden Trout, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout, Redband Trout. *Session Leads: Kurt Fesenmyer, Roger Bloom, FS*
- Birds-Willow Flycatcher. *Session Leads: Helen Loffland, Ryan Burnett*
- Amphibians-Yosemite Toad and Mountain Yellow Legged Frog. *Session Leads: Cathy Brown, Sarah Yarnell*

5:00 PM-5:30 PM: (Session 6) Focal Species Breakout Groups Present

The three focal species breakout groups will reconvene and each have 10 minutes to present their findings back to the plenary. The desired outcomes from these presentations will be to offer recommendations to funders, agencies, and partners on focal species and the identification of key metrics for tracking progress.

6:00 PM-7:00 PM: Dinner

Tuesday Evening: A casual discussion regarding what geospatial data are available (species, habitat, etc.), how the data can be used to enhance meadow restoration efforts, and identify key gaps in data. A desired outcome is an inventory of potential data resources.

Wednesday Morning: Topical Issues Relevant to Forest Planning

Particular emphasis for this session will be placed on issues relevant to the earlier adopter forests (Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra) and the interaction between topics and desired conditions. The objective of this session is to present, discuss, and develop recommendations on topical issues relevant to meadows and forest planning which include, grazing and vegetation management, roads and trails, and climate change.

8:00 AM-8:30 AM: Welcome, Introductions, and Recap of Tuesday's Activities

Session Leads: Mark Drew

8:30 AM- 9:30 AM: (Session 1) Climate Change and Ecosystem Resiliency

Session Leads: Dave Herbst

This discussion will pertain to the role of climate change and ecosystem resiliency in meadow ecosystems and identify meadow restoration practices that mitigate the effects of climate change. Desired outcomes include an increased awareness of the effects of climate change on meadow ecosystems, an identification of opportunities relevant to forest planning and climate change, and to offer solutions for meadows restoration practitioners to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

9:40 AM-11:00 AM: (Breakout Session A) Livestock Grazing and Vegetation Management

Session Leads: Dave Weixelman, Greg Haller, Sherri Brennen

This group will discuss the role of livestock grazing and vegetation management in meadow ecosystems and identify opportunities relevant to forest planning. The desired outcome from this session is to identify desired conditions and future management recommendations for the future of livestock grazing and vegetation management within meadow ecosystems.

9:40 AM-11:00AM: (Breakout Session B) Roads, Trails, and Desired Management Conditions

Session Leads: Sue Britting, Mike Dietz, FS

This group will discuss roads and trails in meadow ecosystems and identify opportunities relevant to forest planning. The desired outcome from this session is to identify desired conditions and future management recommendations for the future of road and trail management within meadow ecosystems.

11:00 AM-12:00 PM: (Session 2) Report Back on Breakout Session Findings

A delegate from each breakout session will report back to the group on desired conditions and future management recommendations for livestock grazing, and road and trail management.

12:00 PM-1:00 PM: Lunch

Wednesday Afternoon: Synthesis of Meadows Workshop and Conclusion

1:00 PM-2:30 PM: (Session 3) Synthesis of Workshop and Next Steps

Session Leads: TBD, Mark Drew, David Lawrence, Carly Vynne

The goal of this discussion is to synthesize information derived and collated from the NFWF meadows workshop and identify where there is agreement and remaining disagreement regarding meadows management recommendations. The group will identify opportunities for increased alignment and information sharing between the state and federal government, NGO's, and academia and identify next steps to enhance the health and long-term viability of Sierra Nevada and Cascades meadow ecosystems.

2:30PM: Adjourn