

Tulare Basin Watershed Connections Workgroup – Responses to Survey Monkey on Workgroup Member Capacity and Needs

Organizations/Individuals that Responded to the Survey Monkey

1. Community Water Center
2. Angiola/Deer Creek SWD/SW Tulare County WRMA
3. Sierra Nevada Conservancy
4. Ag Innovations
5. Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
6. North Fork Mono Tribe
7. Sequoia Riverlands Trust
8. Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Does your organization have data (especially GIS layers) you could share that would support the WCW effort (e.g. water quality, streamflow, species/habitat information, existing or potential project boundaries)? If so, please specify.

1. From the Tulare Lake Basin DAC water study there is a database and GIS layers identifying all of the DAC and SDAC water systems in the Tulare Lake Basin. The database also includes information on sources, quality and other challenges. We are also starting a private well testing program which is yielding limited but illustrative sampling results for 7 contaminants in different parts of the basin.
2. Some, not a lot of good digital though
3. Yes - SNC has a GIS analyst who can access publicly available data. We also can work with upper watershed land managers to collect data specific to Sierra Nevada forested lands, meadows. etc. Finally, our GIS analyst has compiled layers showing where various upper watershed restoration projects have been awarded (by SNC, DFW, DWR..)
4. No - we partner with technical/GIS people as needed depending on the project
5. Our four Tulare Basin Conservation Plans are official DFW CAPP documents; Charlotte Peters at DFW has GIS shape file info for all four.
6. Meadow restoration projects; species monitoring results (annually), photo documentation of encroachment removal
7. Please contact us for questions on specific GIS layers

8. We have a variety of data in different formats that are stewarded by various people in SEKI, such as: Streamflow data (points) Water quality (points) GIS - vegetation map GIS - fire history, FRID, etc. GIS- wetlands GIS- projected climate exposure

Does your organization have a list of stakeholder approved project concepts that will advance integrated resource management in the Tulare Basin Watershed? If so, is there a link or could you provide this list via email?

1. The TLB study also includes a list of specific recommendations for dealing with DAC water issues. There are not so much projects but some can certainly be executed as projects at community or regional scales. All the study documents can be found here: <http://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/>
2. Yes, several, which have been included in basin planning docs
3. No, but we participate in collaborative/partner with groups that have these projects. i.e. SSIRWM (<http://www.southernsierrarwmg.org/potential-projects.html>) or Dinkey Creek Collaborative projects (listed on the Sierra National Forest SOPA - <http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?110515>)
4. Yes, although many of our projects are either statewide, or establish models or methods that can be applied to a variety of local contexts.
5. The TBWP & TBWI Conceptual Climate Change Project List (September 2015 Draft) will be posted on the TBWP & TBWI websites after 12/2 TB WCW vetting.
6. N/A
7. Yes – see question 4
8. We have a list of proposed prescribed fire projects. Currently, an EA is underway for Cahoon Meadow Restoration project. I have pre-project proposals I submitted to the SSIRWMP (koren_nydick@nps.gov) including 2 example fire projects.

How can the TB WCW help your organization?

Is there a specific project(s) that you could help move forward to the implementation stage? Briefly describe up to three:

1. There are a wide variety of projects that could tie DAC water needs into wider, multi-benefit projects ranging from regional solutions to planning and pre-planning that helps direct benefits of particular projects to the areas that most need those benefits.
2. All...but I await feedback from others on their perception of prioritization...

3. 1. Rough Fire restoration (consequences for downstream water quality/flooding - need Forest Service partnership) 2. White River restoration (see TBWP project list...) 3. Really, anything that can connect the upper and lower watershed...
4. N/A
5. See project descriptions in Climate Change Project List for (1) Arroyo-Pasajero Flood Control Strategies & Habitat Enhancement (Fresno Co.), (2) Liberty Ranch Flood Storage and Habitat Enhancement (Kings Co.), and (3) Atwell Island-Alpaugh-Allensworth (AAA) Trails Project (Tulare Co.).
6. None for the Tribe The NFMT doesn't have projects in the Tulare Basin Watershed When choosing projects in the Forest or Parks, check: what kind of collaborative was in-place when the NEPA was being executed; Is the NEPA and or RoD specific about what restoration means in the particular watershed; Just because a watershed has a NEPA or RoD doesn't mean the or a project is implementable. If working with Tribes, it is Tribal Science not Western Science; TEK is spiritual tribal practices.
7. 1) WATER FOR KAWEAH OAKS PRESERVE Purpose: Restore aspects of the natural hydrologic regime to maintain valley oak riparian woodland, alkali meadow and seasonal wetland habitats stressed by long-term drought. 2) REGENERATIVE CARBON FARM/RANCH PLANS AND IMPLEMENTATION Purpose: Systematically explore practical regenerative farmland/rangeland management strategies that enhance durable soil carbon, and as a consequence significantly improve the capacity of ag watershed lands to absorb and store moisture. 3) CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON PORTION OF RANCH ALONG WHITE RIVER Purpose: Protect portion of lower White River riparian corridor and adjoining watershed lands from development. Establish partnership with landowner for future riparian restoration, regenerative grazing and potential conjunctive projects for flood attenuation, groundwater recharge and habitat.
8. 1) We are interested in more **inter-agency fire/fuels treatment initiatives that cross jurisdictional boundaries**. The Grant Grove Peninsula Resilient Landscapes project was funded by the DOI Resilient Landscapes program and includes NPS, USFS, CalFire, and UC Berkeley partners. Another focus area could be in the **Kaweah Watershed partnering with BLM, CalFire and perhaps others**. It would require help in reaching out to local communities and air resource boards to build support. An intermediate step would be an interagency prioritization workshop to discuss project priorities and ideally come to an agreement on a set of mutually beneficial projects. Information on existing conditions as well as future climate vulnerabilities could be brought into this effort as they were for the exercises we conducted that helped select the Grant Grove Peninsula to propose for Resilient Landscapes funding. 2) We are working on Giant Sequoia and Forest Leaf to Landscape Projects to develop a method to map forest sensitivity to drought stress and monitor moisture status over time. Partners currently are NPS, USGS, USFS, Carnegie Airborne Observatory, UC Berkeley. Data was collected in 2015 and we are looking for a few more years of funding and then, if successful, help to operationalize this tool to conduct monitoring across boundaries. Ideally, this project would be linked into other forest hydrological monitoring efforts (sensor networks, etc.).

What services could the WCW partners assist you with? (check all that apply):
grant writing capacity; grant proposal review; letters of support; regulatory guidance; GIS mapping;
other

1. Letters of support; GIS mapping
2. All of the above
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. Grant writing capacity, grant proposal review, letters of support, GIS mapping, (Note: DFW and or Data Basin should have the GIS info we'll need
6. GIS mapping
7. Grant proposal review, letters of support, regulatory guidance, watershed-level resource information
8. Grant writing capacity, letters of support, GIS mapping, collaborative strategic planning that identifies projects with benefits across jurisdictions and sectors

How can your organization help the TB WCW?

Does your organization have some capacity to support the WCW with any of the following? (check all that apply): grant writing capacity; grant proposal review; letters of support; regulatory guidance; GIS mapping; other

1. Identifying and tracking funding opportunities and guidelines
2. We are pretty thin on personnel
3. Grant writing, grant administration, grant review, regulatory guidance, GIS mapping, funding (for forest health projects)
4. N/A
5. Grant writing, grant review
6. Grant writing, grant review
7. Grant administration, grant review
8. Grant writing, GIS mapping

Are there other services or resources your organization could contribute to advance integrated regional watershed planning?

1. DAC perspective and knowledge
2. Management and organization

3. Grant writing workshop, matching projects and funding sources
4. N/A
5. Communications and strategic project advancement support services, e.g. TBWP and TBWI website postings, TBWI E-News, & more TBD
6. Advice; Training; Ecological Knowledge; Tribal Cultural Practices
7. Contacts and information on hydrologic benefits of regenerative land management practices.
8. We have lessons learned from conducting landscape-scale analyses and strategic planning exercises

Other comments or suggestions?

1. N/A
2. No
3. Grantwriting workshop! Hosting (co-hosting?) workshop(?) to pull together upper land managers, downstream water agencies...discuss management strategies of FS, NPS; pull together current science/understanding of the connection (e.g. Carolyn, Roger's work)...discuss possibilities for connections, potential for engagement by downstream agencies (I plan to contact State Water Commission to see if they'd be interested in this...)
4. N/A
5. Not at this time, thank you!
6. Have the Forest and or Park give you projects that are ready for implementation, then collaboratively go and view them, Then, review your grant carefully to if the two match up.
7. We look forward to the December WCW call
8. SEKI has great GIS staff, but their time is mostly spoken for or would need to be project funded.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust – Projects (detailed response)

9. WATER FOR KAWEAH OAKS PRESERVE Purpose: Restore aspects of the natural hydrologic regime to maintain valley oak riparian woodland, alkali meadow and seasonal wetland habitats stressed by long-term drought. The Project: Develop agreements with entities managing the preserve's waterways to obtain water through storm water lay-off and/or water purchase. Partner with those entities, as well as downstream water/flood management and conservation interests, to construct a storm water lay-off/groundwater recharge basin on the new Deep Creek parcel and install diversion structures or pumping facilities to bring water into the basin. Construct other "minimalist" channels, levees and/or berms as needed to connect the storm/recharge basin with other natural basins and slough channels on the preserve, and enable water to be held and percolated in those areas. Revegetate disturbed areas with typical native plant species appropriate to each habitat type. Benefits: • Ability to lay off roughly 100 acre-feet of storm water, attenuating downstream flooding during high flow events • Groundwater recharge,

benefitting habitats on the preserve as well as neighboring farmers and residents • About 30 acres of direct habitat enhancement

2) **REGENERATIVE CARBON FARM/RANCH PLANS AND IMPLEMENTATION** Purpose: Systematically explore practical regenerative farmland/rangeland management strategies that enhance durable soil carbon, and as a consequence significantly improve the capacity of ag watershed lands to absorb and store moisture. The Projects: • Develop and implement holistic plans for regenerative grazing management and systematic resource monitoring (including soil, water, vegetation, wildlife and livestock production measures) on SRT's Kaweah Oaks, Herbert, and Homer Ranch preserves (and others as able). Share results and lessons learned via SRT and partner communications venues, conference presentations, publications, etc. • Implement pilot project on 60 acres of farmland along Fresno Slough to explore drought-adapted alternatives to irrigated crop production on valley lands with dwindling water availability. Includes systematic documentation, resource monitoring, and sharing of results/lessons learned. • Connect other landowners to holistic and/or carbon farm planning principles and practices via o Planned Grazing Workshop – Feb 2015 o Sponsoring expert consultations for ranchers leasing SRT preserves o Partnering with those landowners on future pilot projects Benefits: • Enhanced watershed function (catchment, recharge, storage, stability), potentially over large areas • Improved ag productivity • Enhanced biodiversity, from soil microbes to macrofauna • Sequestration in the soil of large amounts of atmospheric carbon (greenhouse gases)

3) **CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON PORTION OF RANCH ALONG WHITE RIVER** Purpose: Protect portion of lower White River riparian corridor and adjoining watershed lands from development. Establish partnership with landowner for future riparian restoration, regenerative grazing and potential conjunctive projects for flood attenuation, groundwater recharge and habitat. The Project: Acquire conservation easement(s) strategically protecting a corridor through the ranch. Then partner with the landowner on resource enhancement projects. May involve several funding sources. Benefits: Flood attenuation, groundwater recharge and opportunities to restore riparian habitat.