

**File Code:** 1560

**Date:** January 11, 2021

Stacy Corless  
Eastern Sierra Council of Governments, Chair

Dear Chair Corless,

I am writing to offer my support for a program that is being considered by the four member agencies of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority (ESCOG JPA), to be known as the "Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program."

The proposed program would help our agency address the primary focal areas of the recently updated Inyo National Forest Management Plan (2019), including sustainable recreation, ecosystem management, and wildfire. The ESCOG JPA's resolution is in alignment with our Agency's 'All Lands' approach to a shared and common response to the challenges of implementing effective sustainable recreation and ecosystem management programs on a region-wide basis. These endeavors are central to the mission of the Inyo National Forest and vital to the safety and economic well-being of Eastern Sierra communities.

Additionally, the program offers the Inyo National Forest an important and forward-looking opportunity to enhance our goal of shared stewardship as a necessary step to meet the growing demands of both resource and community needs. Central to achieving that goal are effective relationships with public agency partners, that will build much needed capacity to accomplish the work of the various partners. While the program offers the opportunity to attain functional alignments between all partners in pursuit of shared goals within Eastern Sierra communities, it also echoes and reinforces current agreements between the U.S. Forest Service and the State of California, including the recently approved "Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forests and Rangelands (August 2020)", signed by Governor Newsom and Vickie Christiansen, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.



I have been advised of the schedule for the four upcoming meetings of the individual ESCOG JPA member agencies and will have USFS representation present to offer the Inyo National Forest's support for the program. Please share this letter of support with the members of the ESCOG JPA in advance of their individual meetings as appropriate.

Sincerely,

LESLEY YEN  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Elaine Kabala