

California Upper Watershed Gathering

August 3rd



What is the Upper Watershed?

Creating a watershed narrative

Representations of watersheds, including their portrayal on maps, influence the personal investment people feel towards forest and watershed stewardship. The group determined that in many instances California's focus on upper watersheds is limited to those watersheds that feed the water projects. The group discussed the pros and cons of a more expansive and inclusive definition of upper watershed that helps all Californians to understand their upper watersheds. The group also identified strategies for communicating to the public through education, publications, and outreach to decision-makers.

Antelope Lake



Antelope Lake, located on the upper Indian Creek, was constructed to provide recreational opportunities and to ensure year-round water flow to Indian Creek for fish populations.

Draft Upper Watershed Management Guiding Principles

- Place matters when considering upper watershed management strategies
- California tribes have been actively managing California's forests for thousands of years and forests are healthier when humans actively manage them
- Local tribes and communities have relevant expertise and know their forests the best
- Upper watershed communities are our forest stewards and should have the necessary resources to perform their stewardship responsibilities
- Healthy communities, evidenced by broad scale community engagement and economic vitality, are best able to actively manage the forest
- Everyone in California benefits from well-managed forests and more resources are necessary to educate Californians statewide about these benefits
- Forests are best managed through a collaborative effort across the entire engineered and natural watershed from the headwaters to the ocean
- A well-managed forest provides air, GHG reduction, water, ecosystem/biodiversity, food, recreation, and mental benefits
- Fire is a natural element of forested landscapes
- Forest and ecosystem conservation and management can be achieved by integrating science and local knowledge.

CALIFORNIA UPPER WATERSHED GATHERING



The California Upper Watershed Gathering, convened by the Mountain Maidu community, Plumas National Forest, the County of Plumas, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, brought together local stakeholders from the Genesee Valley, local, state, and federal government, academics, and NGO representatives from around the State to share perspectives on the management of California's upper watersheds. The event was sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Mooretown Rancheria, Palmaz Vineyards, and Traditional Lifeways,

The Palmaz family hosted the group on their property and many of the participants camped out. Camping provided a contextualized experience that emphasized the importance of place when making management decisions. Focused on the Genesee Valley as an illustrative example, the first day of the gathering was a follow-up to a collaborative management meeting 4 years prior. Broader state participation allowed state-oriented participants to observe and participate in local forest management planning.

The second day of the gathering the group extrapolated from the local example to inform a discussion of state and federal policy. The day included a field trip to Antelope Lake to provide a larger view of the watershed from the highest lake in the State Water Project system. Participants discussed their vision for a sustainable upper watershed and developed a strategic approach to expand knowledge about and investment in all of California's upper watersheds.



Genesee Valley, Plumas County, CA

August 2nd — August 3rd, 2017



