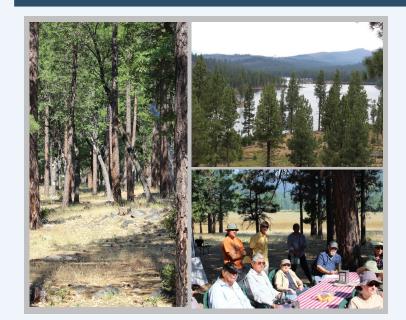
### **California Upper Watershed Gathering**

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

## **Genesee Valley Collaborative Management Meeting**

August 2nd

### **Beckwith Property**

The group took a tour of Bob Beckwith's property. He actively manages his forested land by thinning and doing prescribed burns. He explained that he manages some sections for acorn production and others to promote conifer health and wildlife habitat. He also collaborates with local tribal elders to inform his practices and to help with management activities. He uses his own funds to manage his land and is interested in collaborating to bring forest management to landscape scale.







### **Core Values and Management Strategies**

Cross-sector breakout groups discussed their core values for a healthy upper watershed and identified management strategies to implement those values. These word clouds are a representation of the rich discussions. There was quite a bit of alignment on values and management strategies across the groups. These discussions provided the foundation for the strategy on the next page.

empowerment measurements involvement innovative reliability of reliability individuals ribbling resource innovation ecosystem of the community and same resources innovation ecosystem of the community individuals ribbling resource and supply recharge market equitable public food sustained project scale of the communities of the communi

Core Values: What characterizes a

Management Strategies: How do we achieve a healthy upper watershed?



#### **Next Steps**

The August 2nd meeting concluded with the development of a strategy for moving forward to achieve the group's upper watershed management goals both in the Genesee Valley and statewide. There was broad agreement on the importance of pursuing a bottom-up strategy led by local action which allows local expertise to lead the management effort. This visual outlines action items at the sub-goals at the local level and how they can feed into state-level goals in pursuit of state-wide legislation that supports a sustainable upper watershed. The local stakeholders are already moving their agenda forward. There is broader interest in taking this strategy, along with the principles on the next page, to other watersheds in the State to adjust for broad resonance and connect the many similar local efforts.

