

The Resources Agency Project Tracking & Reporting System (RAPTR)

Access and Recreation Workshop



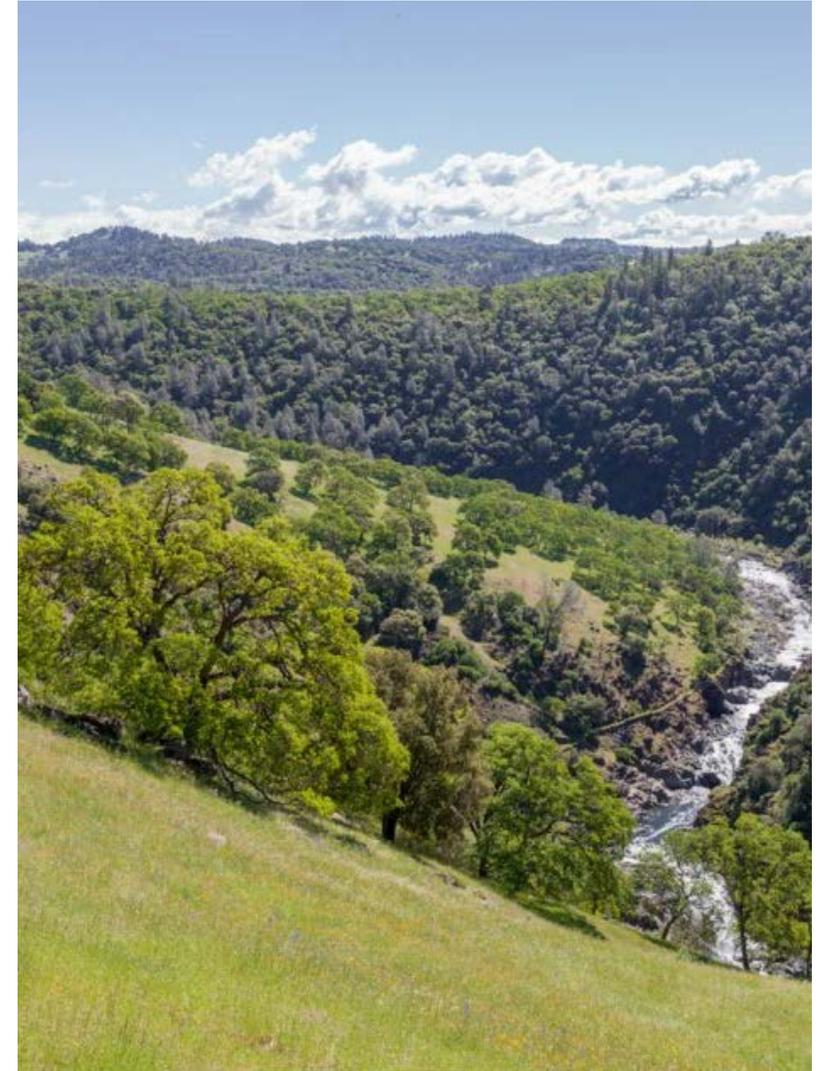
Workshop Purpose

Gather stakeholder input to inform the creation of the Resources Agency Project Tracking and Reporting (RAPTR) System by

- Validating the management questions identified by stakeholders during the Kickoff meeting.
- Utilizing a strategic thinking approach to identify key indicators and metrics for Access and Recreation projects.

Key questions to address:

1. What common metrics could be tracked across similar project types to inform project-, program-, and bond-level analysis?
2. Which metrics are most appropriate and realistic to track in a central system?



Meeting Agenda

10:00AM Welcome and Introductions

Amanda Martin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration and Finance

Gina Ford, Senior Environmental Scientist, MSU

Jim Falter, Environmental Scientist, MSU

10:25 Commitment to Access, Engagement, and Recreation in California

Sedrick Mitchell, Deputy Director of External Affairs, Department of Parks and Recreation

10:40 Access and Recreation Management Questions Overview

Rae Eaton, Science Policy Fellow, MSU

10:50 Monitoring and Evaluation on the Ground – A Grantee Perspective

Amy Lethbridge, Mountains & Rivers Conservation Authority, Community Nature Connection

11:05 Guiding Principles and Screening Criteria for Monitoring and Evaluation Metrics

Elea Becker Lowe, Environmental Scientist, MSU

11:10 Breakout Instructions: Leveraging and Evaluating Indicators & Metrics

Project Site Condition, Public Use of Project Site, Co-benefits

11:20 Breakout Session #1

12:15 Lunch Break

1:00 Breakout Sessions #2 & 3

2:10 Report Out and Plenary Discussion

2:50 Wrap Up and Next Steps

3:00PM Meeting Adjourn



Guidelines for Remote Conversation



Remote meeting. Remote collaboration meetings can be challenging and frustrating – please be patient and flexible.

Audio/Video. We want to see and hear you, but please only have your mic and video on while you're speaking.

Participation:

- **Chat Panel** can be used to add comments and questions. We may not go through all of them during the meeting, but we will incorporate your comments and address your questions in the meeting summary.
- **Hand raise** function can be found at the bottom of your Participant panel. Please use the hand raise to get into a queue.

Collaboration tools. We will use Zoom polls to get your feedback and breakouts for small conversations and collaborative work.

Be comfortable. We will take short breaks throughout the meeting

Have fun and be courteous.

- Honor time and share the airtime
- Think innovatively - We welcome new ideas

What perspective do you bring to the discussion today?

You should see a poll pop-up in your zoom screen shortly- thanks for participating!

- ✓ Department of Water Resources
- ✓ Department of Fish and Wildlife
- ✓ Air Resources Board
- ✓ State Parks
- ✓ Natural Resources Agency
- ✓ State Coastal Conservancy
- ✓ Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- ✓ Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- ✓ Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
- ✓ Tahoe Conservancy
- ✓ Delta Stewardship Council



Welcome and Introductions

Amanda Martin

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration and Finance, CNRA



Update on RAPTR Development

Gina Ford, MSU Supervisor



The MSU Team

Gina Ford, Sr. Environmental Scientist



Elea Becker Lowe, Environmental Scientist

Brad Juarros, Environmental Scientist



Jim Falter, Environmental Scientist

Rae Eaton, Science Policy Fellow



Decision Process

**WE
ARE
HERE**



Suggested metrics/
methods
for RAPTR
system

- Identify 2-3 management questions that best address projects of this theme

- For each management question:
- What indicators should be tracked for each project?
 - Which indicator best represents that question?

- For each indicator chosen:
- What metrics answer the most management questions?
 - What metrics best inform the indicator (SMART criteria)?

- For each metric that best inform the chosen indicators:
- What methods can be used to monitor that metric?
 - What method is most feasible to monitor?



Overview of RAPTR Design

Jim Falter, MSU



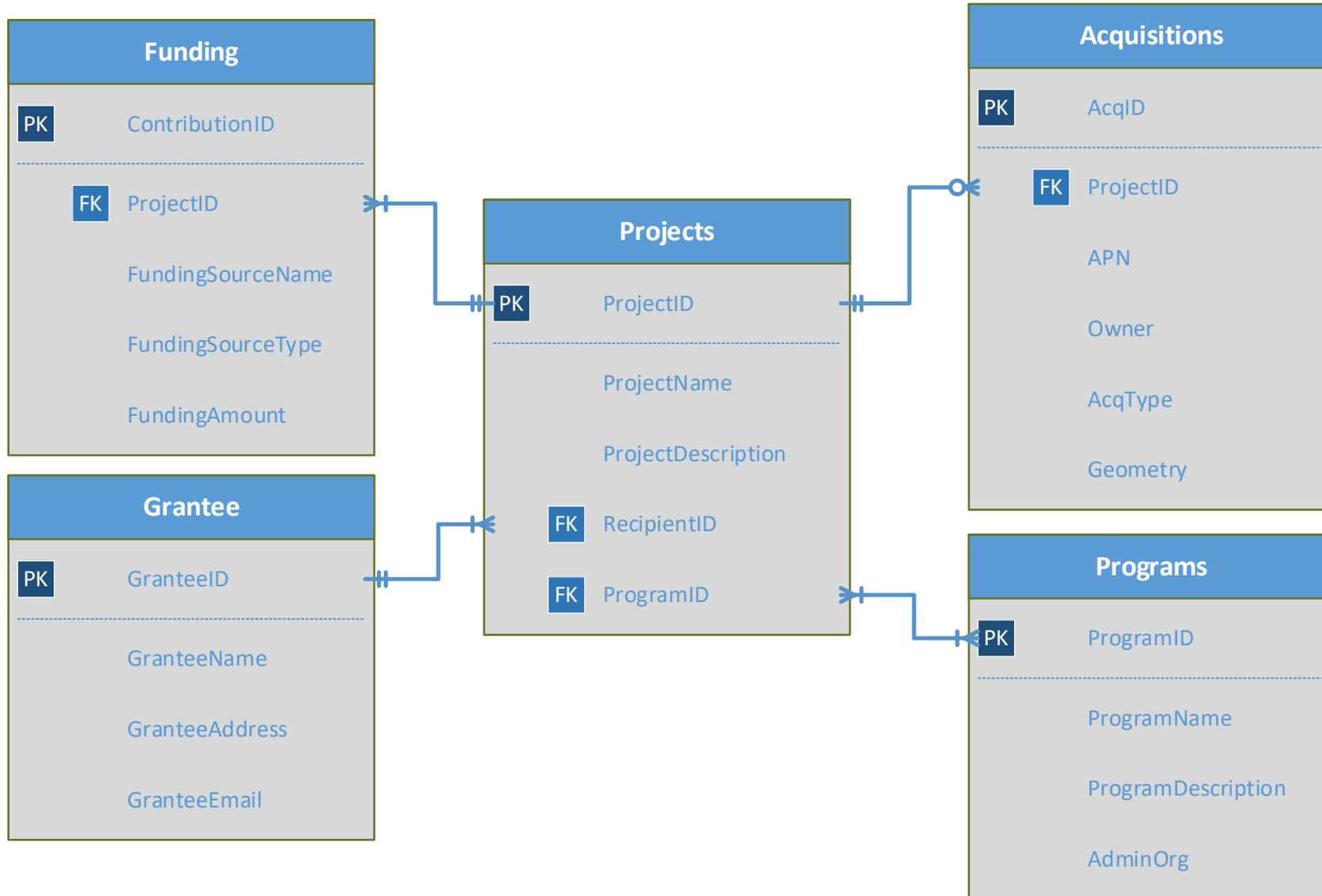
How people describe a project...

'The CNRA Bond Program is overseeing the provision of \$500,000 in funding from Prop 27 to Parks 'R' Us to develop the Natomas Bike Park through the Improving Bicycle Health Program. This project will provide bicycle owners living in and around Natomas with a fully secure recreational area where their bicycles are safe to socialize as well as roam free and unencumbered; thus, greatly improving the health of both bicycles and their owners. Completion of the project will further provide a direct link between two high traffic bike paths used by residential commuters; thus, facilitating a reduction in street traffic around Sacramento as well as a reduction in net city GHG emissions. The first phase of the project will involve the fee title acquisition of four ~0.5-acre vacant residential lots (156-201-0743, 156-201-0744, 156-205-0613, 156-205-0617) which will then be used to develop the bike park. The second phase of the project will involve the development of various park features including a paved high-traffic bike path connecting two existing bike commuter paths, a fully enclosed special-use area for bikes to move unencumbered, and an open covered community shop equipped with permanently secured bike stands and tools. Development of the project will also involve the planting of 50 native trees as part of a broader climate-change resilient landscaping plan. The total cost of the project will be \$1.2 million with additional contributions of \$500,000 and \$200,000 being made from Sacramento Parks and Friends of Natomas' Bikes; respectively. Sacramento Parks will further be responsible for management of the park (including all O&M) in perpetuity following completion of the project.'

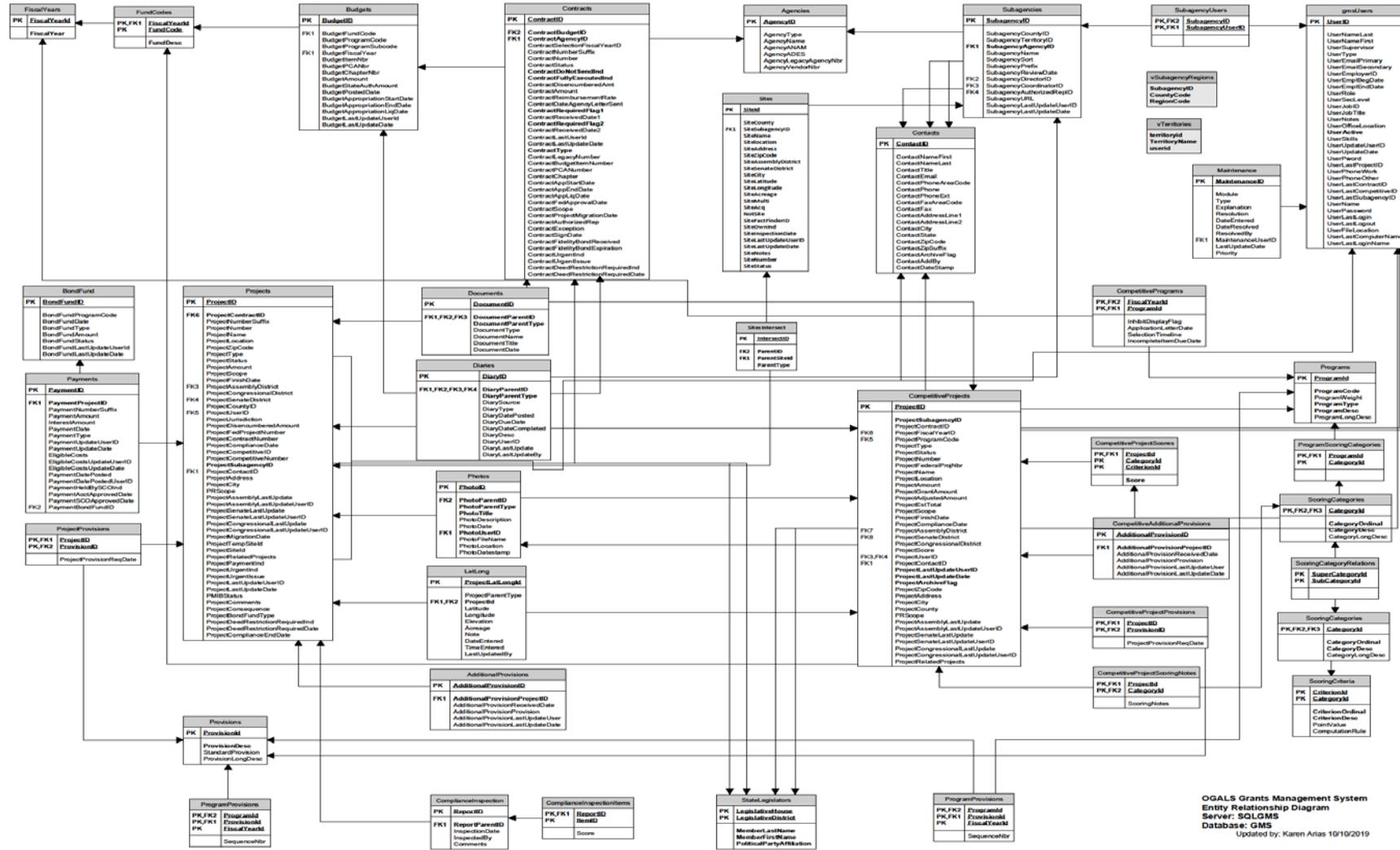
How computers describe a project...

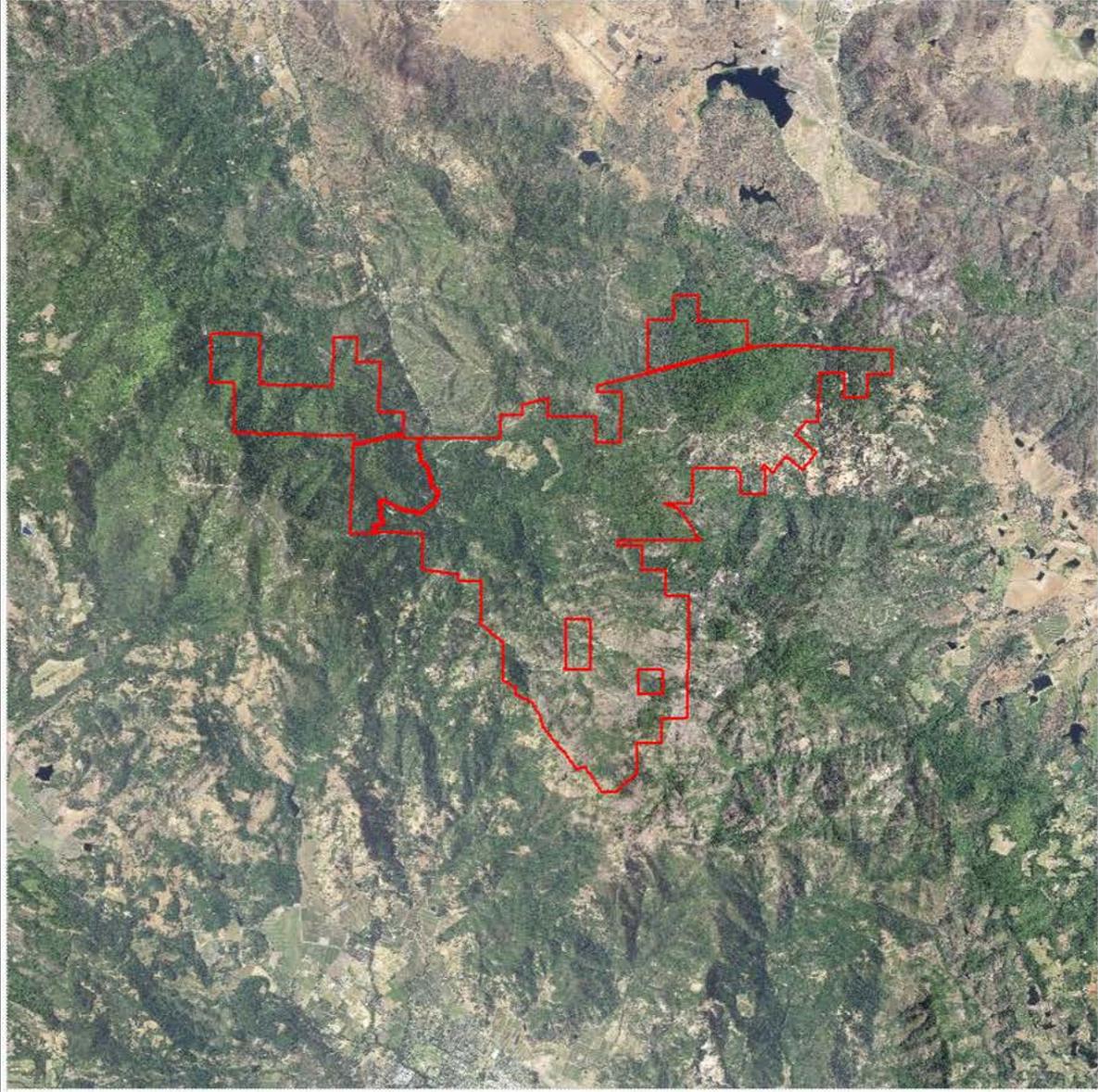
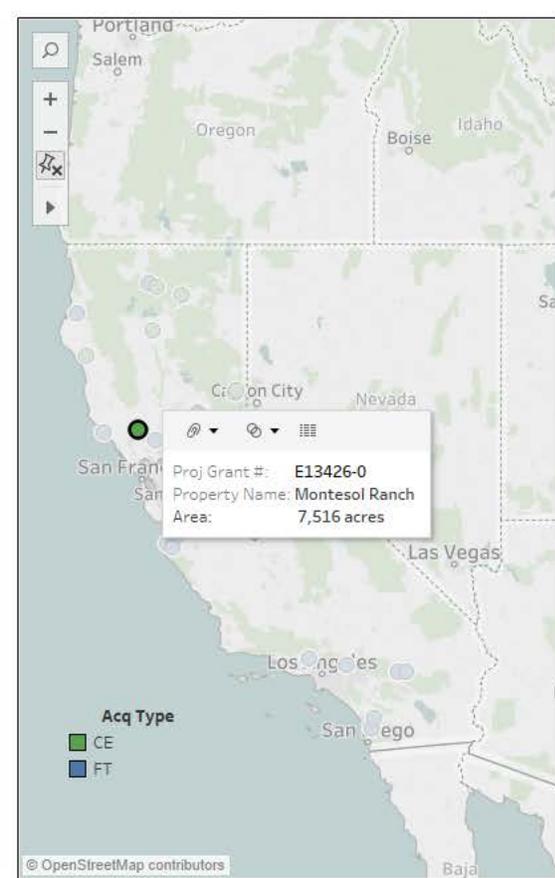
FIELD	VALUE	FORMAT
ProjectID	"CNRA-123-4567"	text
ProjectName	"Natomas Bike Park"	text
GranteeName	"Parks 'R' Us"	text
ProgramName	"Improving Bicycle Health Program"	text
AdminOrg	CNRA	system-defined
ProjectDescription	"This project will provide bicycle..."	text
AcqParcels	{156-201-0743, 156-201-0744, 156-205-0613, 156-205-0617}	text
ProjectArea	2.07 [acres]	number
AcqType	{Fee Title, Fee Title, Fee Title, Fee Title}	system-defined
PropertyManager	"Sacramento Parks"	text
TotalCost	1.2e6 [dollars]	number
FundingAmounts	{5e5, 5e5, 2e5} [dollars]	number
FundingSources	{"Prop 27", "Sacramento Parks", "Friends of Natomas' Bikes"}	text

Example Relational Database

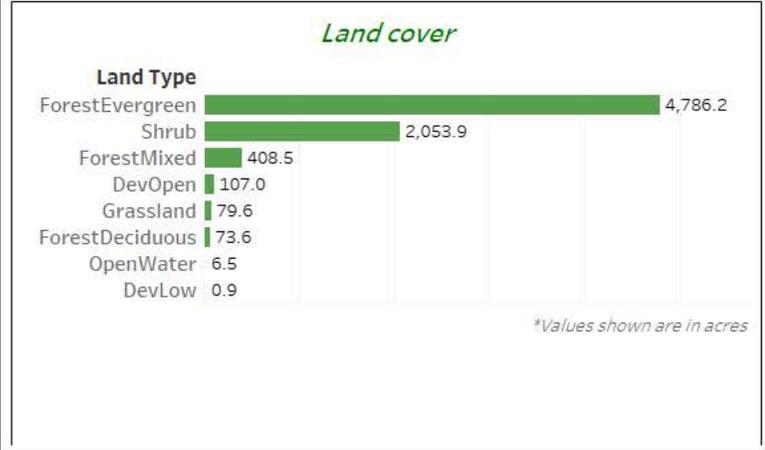


State Parks GMS





Description
 Conservation Easement protecting over 7,200 acres of Montesol Ranch



Project Specifications

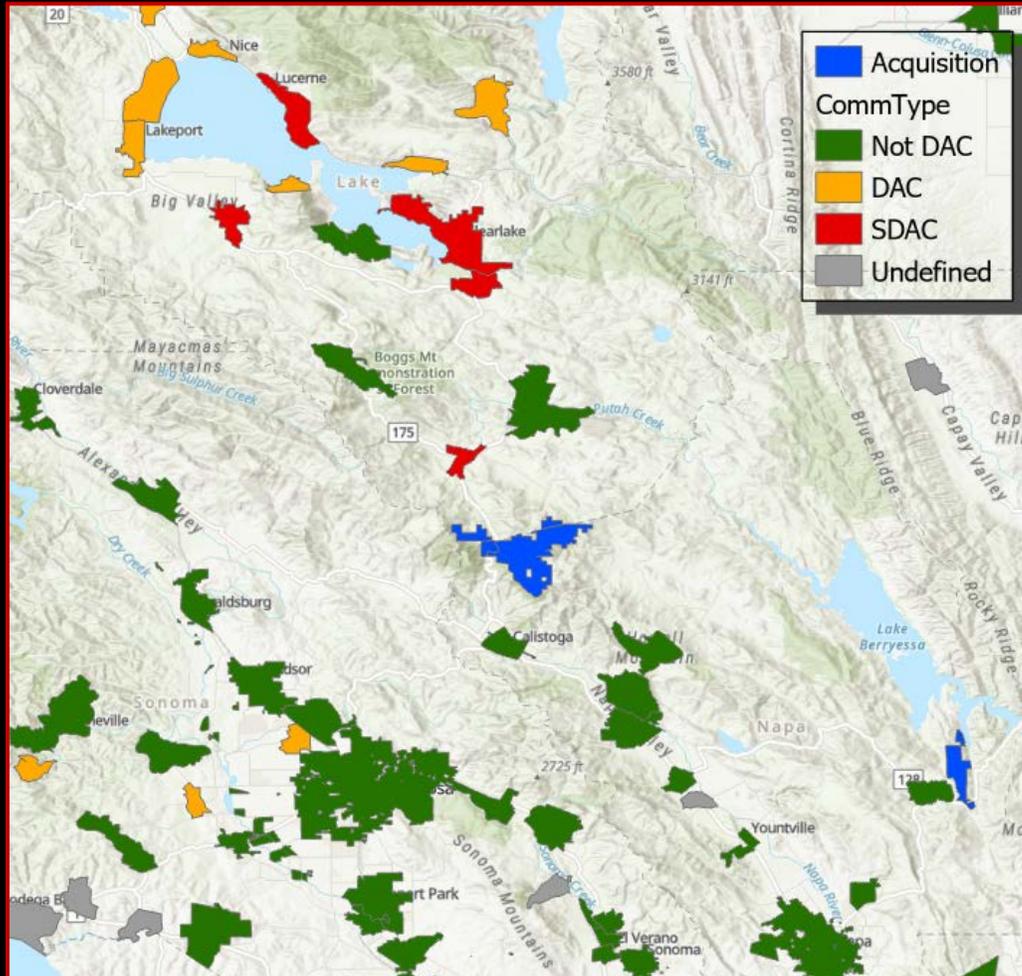
Project Grant #: [E13426-0](#)
 Property Name: [Montesol Ranch](#)
 Area: [7,516.3 acres](#)
 County: [Lake, Napa](#)
 Manager: [NA](#)
 Access: [No Public Access](#)
 Program: [Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation Program](#)
 Funding Source: [EEMP](#)
 Date Completed: [1/24/2018](#)
 Elevation: [691 ft.](#) [433 to 1,110]

Funding Sources

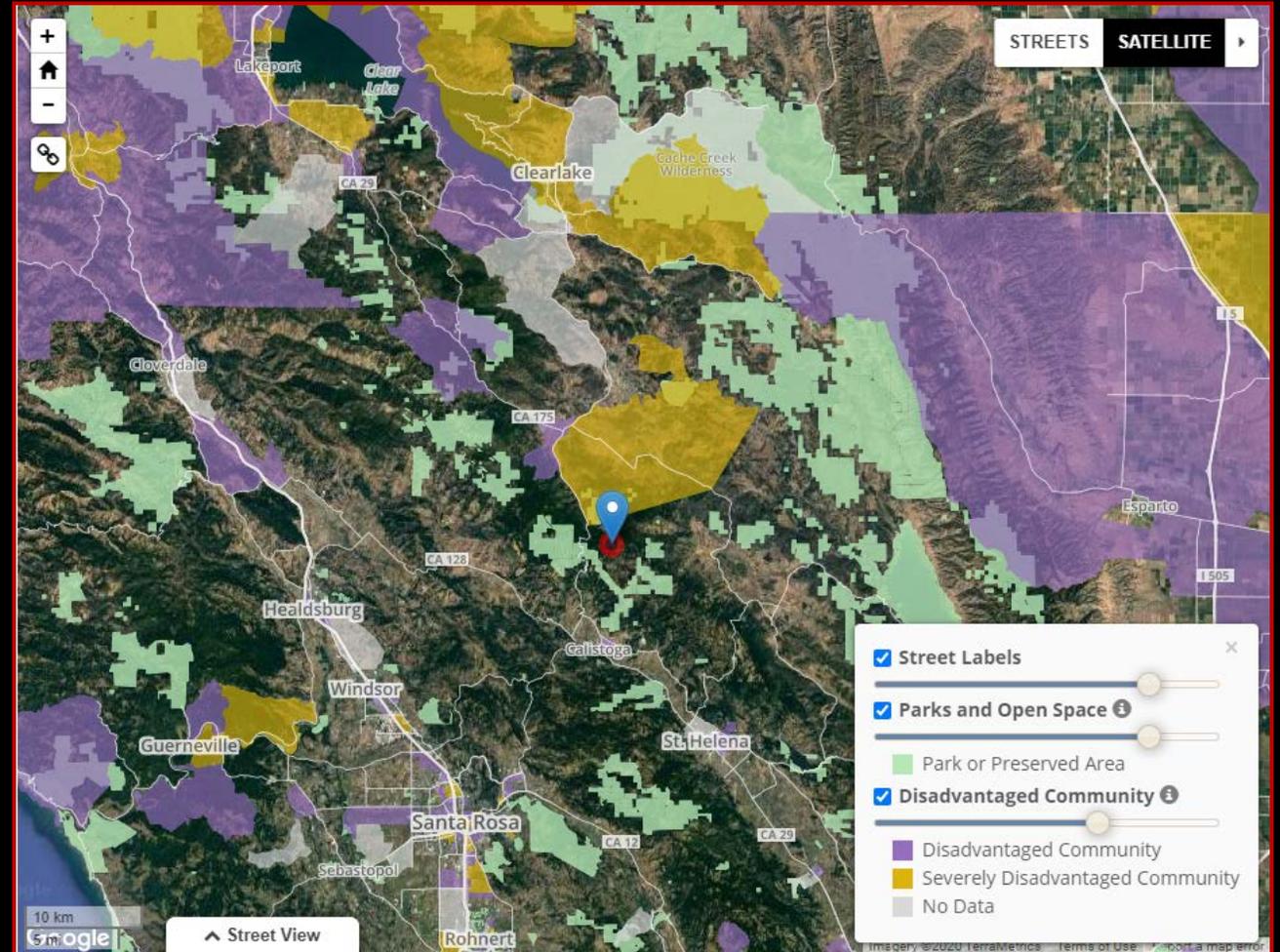
Class	Sponsor	Amount
Non-Profit	Moore Foundation	\$5,000,000
	Private Donation	\$300,000
	Knobloch Family Foundation	\$250,000
	Land Value Donation	\$165,000
	Trust for Public Land	\$56,500
State-Other	WCB	\$3,750,000
	SCC	\$1,700,000
	EEMP	\$500,000
Grand Total		\$11,721,500

Demographics (ACS 2014-18)

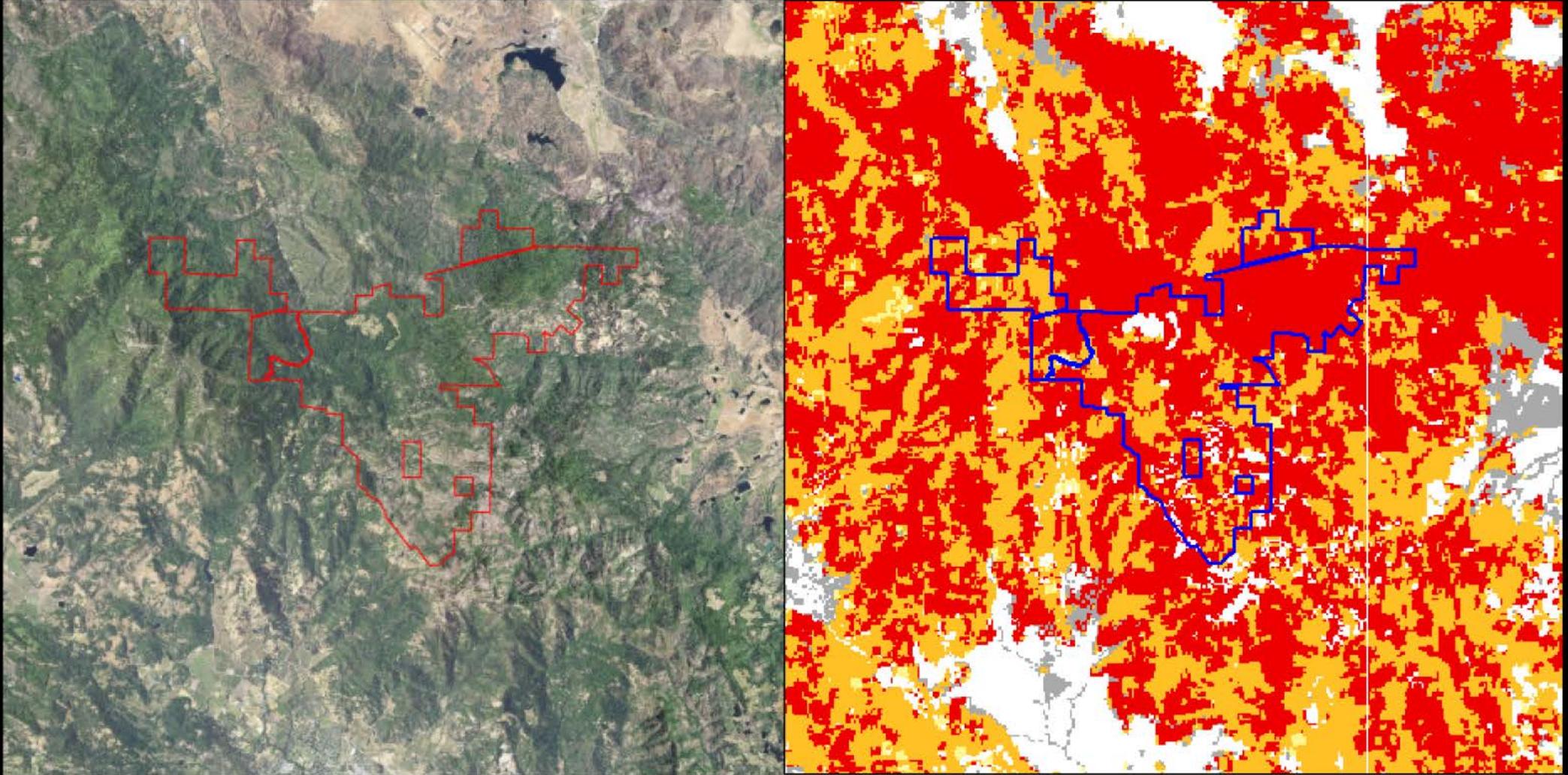
Census Data Places



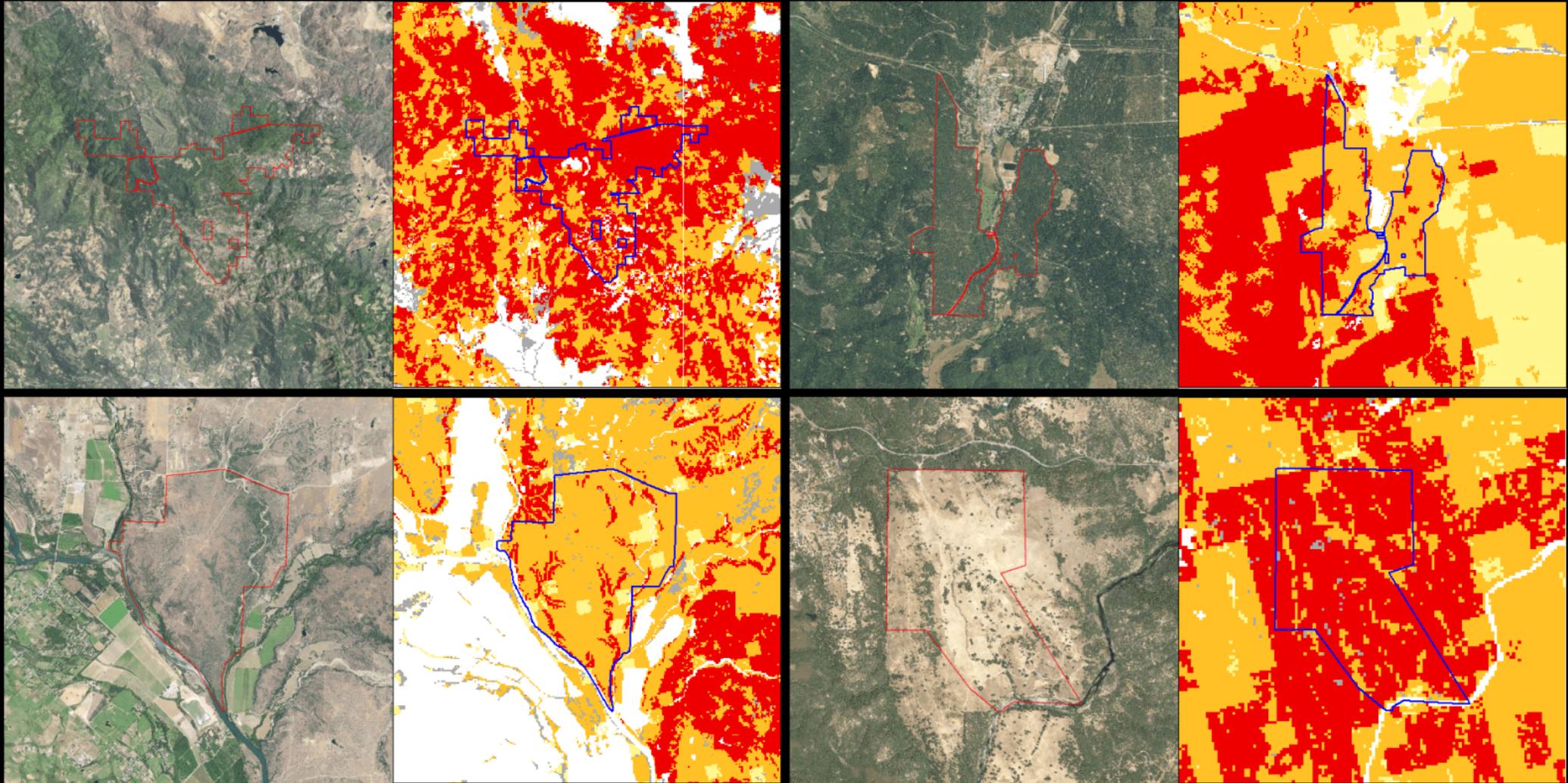
Community Fact Finder



Structure  Automation



Structure Automation





Commitment to Access, Engagement, and
Recreation in California

Sedrick Mitchell
Deputy Director of External Affairs
Department of Parks and Recreation





LIVE THE PARKS LIFE

**California Department of
Parks and Recreation**

ACCESS is...

**Community
Engagement
Division**
(formerly External Affairs)

September 2020

ACCESS is...

- ...Building Close-to-Home Parks in Communities
- ...Fostering Community Input for Grant Applications
- ...Ensuring Local Parks Stay Open
- ...Empowering Youth to Lead and Serve
- ...Inspiring Communities to Engage with Nature
- ...Providing Resources for Meaningful Park Experiences

...Building Close-to-Home Parks in Communities

“ People need time and financial resources to travel to parks away from their communities. Only the presence of a park within a community can provide immediate daily access for its residents.”

(California's 2015 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, page 15)



OGALS Access Model



Technical assistance for local agencies



Encourage community-based planning for park design



Grants prioritize projects in underserved communities



Operation and maintenance oversight

Demand for Close-To-Home Parks: the Statewide Park Program

Between three competitive rounds...

- Nearly 1,400 project applications
- \$5.2 billion requested
- \$623 million in funding
- \$10 requested per \$1 in funding





Look Familiar?

Why Am I Here?





San Francisco



Avenal

...Fostering Community Input for Grant Applications





McNamara Park



City of Merced



City of Long Beach

Armory Park



City of Perris Mercado Park

BEFORE



AFTER



City of Earlimart's First Park

BEFORE



AFTER



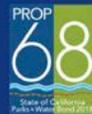
Lessons Learned:

WWW.PARKS.CA.GOV/SPP



Designing Parks Using Community Based Planning

Methods from California's Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP)



California Department of
Parks and Recreation

Interim Guidance for Conducting Community-Based Planning Meetings During COVID-19

July 1, 2020

This document provides interim guidance for applicants who will be conducting community-based planning meetings for Round 4 of the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program (SPP). **Due to COVID-19's impact on social gatherings, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) is allowing for alternatives to in-person community-based planning meetings.**

Effectiveness of In-Person Meetings

No replacement, when designing a park, is as effective in building a stronger sense of community as in-person community-based planning meetings. In-person meetings are still recommended and encouraged for SPP Round 4. The next page provides guidance for in-person meetings. However, if there is a local COVID-19 outbreak that does not allow for in-person meetings, **SPP Round 4 applicants will be allowed to conduct all five recommended meetings through webinars or phone conferences.**

**** For SPP Round 4 only, it is the applicant's discretion to have in-person meetings, phone conferences, or webinars, based on their local health guidance.**

Meeting Alternatives

Alternatives such as phone conferences and video conferencing/webinars can still produce productive community input. However, webinars require high speed internet, equipment, and technical training, which can be a technological barrier in communities affected by poverty. Additionally, it can be hard to control the background noise of callers, participants trying to speak at the same time, and translation needs for discussions. Preparing for a webinar can involve more planning and technical support staff than meeting with residents in person. This document provides things to consider.

Community Leadership

Whether applicants decide to hold in-person meetings, or conduct phone conferences and webinars, the Department encourages applicants to continue to lead with empathy. Ensuring a welcoming community engagement process during these unprecedented times is of utmost importance. Make the park design process inclusive, interactive, and fun for the project area's residents.

Meeting Charts

Thank You!



Q & A

If we are not able to address your question during the meeting, please email MSU@resources.ca.gov



**How far away is the park
you most frequently visit?**

You should see a poll pop-up in
your zoom screen shortly- thanks
for participating!



Access and Recreation Management Questions Overview

Rae Eaton, Science Policy Fellow, MSU



State Considerations for Access and Recreation Projects

- Support healthy, affordable, physical and social activities
- Improve quality of life in communities as a form of social equity and environmental justice
- Provide venues for cultural celebrations
- Preserve historic sites
- Protect California's natural resources and environments
- Provide economic opportunities

Considerations adapted from 2015-2020 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP); 2020-2025 SCORP to be released this year



Common Program Office Considerations

Goals

- Increase equitable access
- Increase diversity of grant applicants
- Balance access/recreation with other programmatic goals

Concerns

- Capacity issues (offices and grantees)
- Funding sources (for maintenance and monitoring)
- Metrics and methods used to evaluate project outcomes

Key management Questions from the Kickoff Meeting

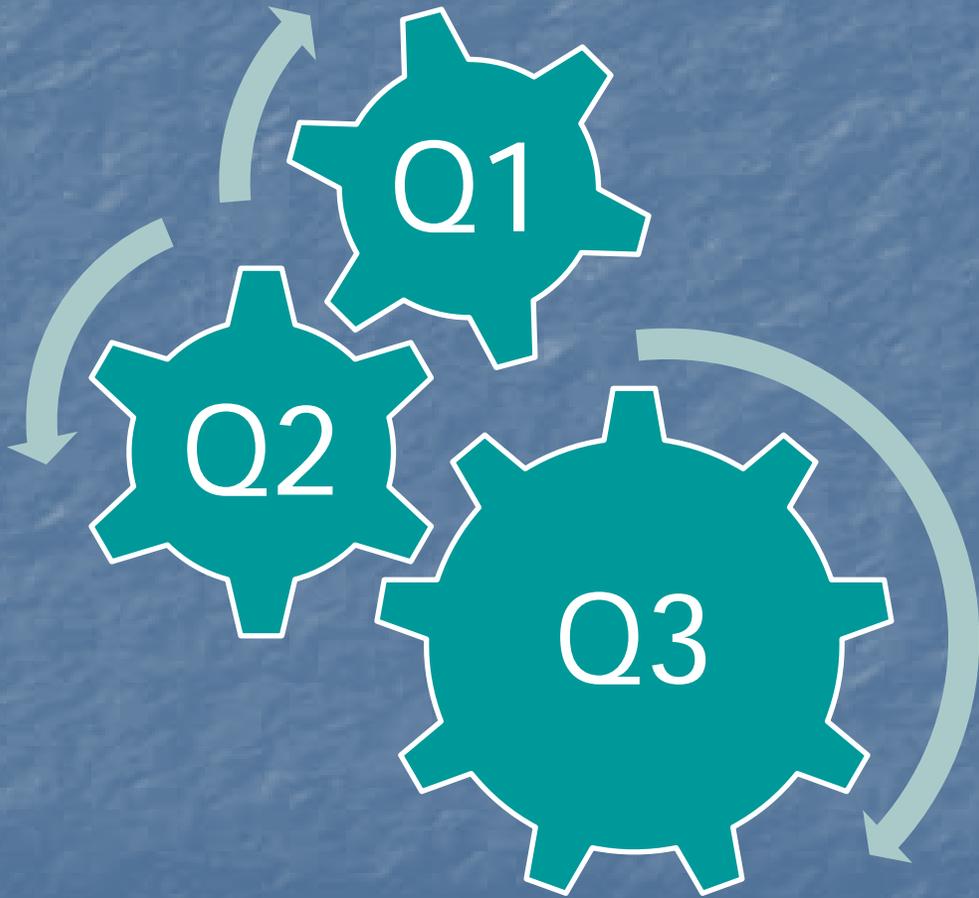
- 1. Condition of Project Area:** Can visitors safely use the project area and the infrastructure/amenities within it?
- 2. Visitor Use of Project Area:** Who uses the project area and amenities and for what purpose? If project goals included increasing access or recreation opportunities for a specific demographic or community, have those goals been met?
- 3. Co-benefits Conferred by Project:** What co-benefits does the project confer?

What co-benefits are typically included in access or recreation projects funded by your program?

You should see a poll pop-up in your zoom screen shortly- thanks for participating!



Purpose of the Management Question



- Planned-for project benefits and delivered benefits are not always the same
- Monitor the condition of project site inform whether a project area is usable
- Monitor activity at the project area inform what benefits are provided by a project area

Monitoring Key Management Questions

1. Condition of Project Area:

- Physical condition, adherence to ADA requirements
- Methods: Site visits, pictures, reports from grantees

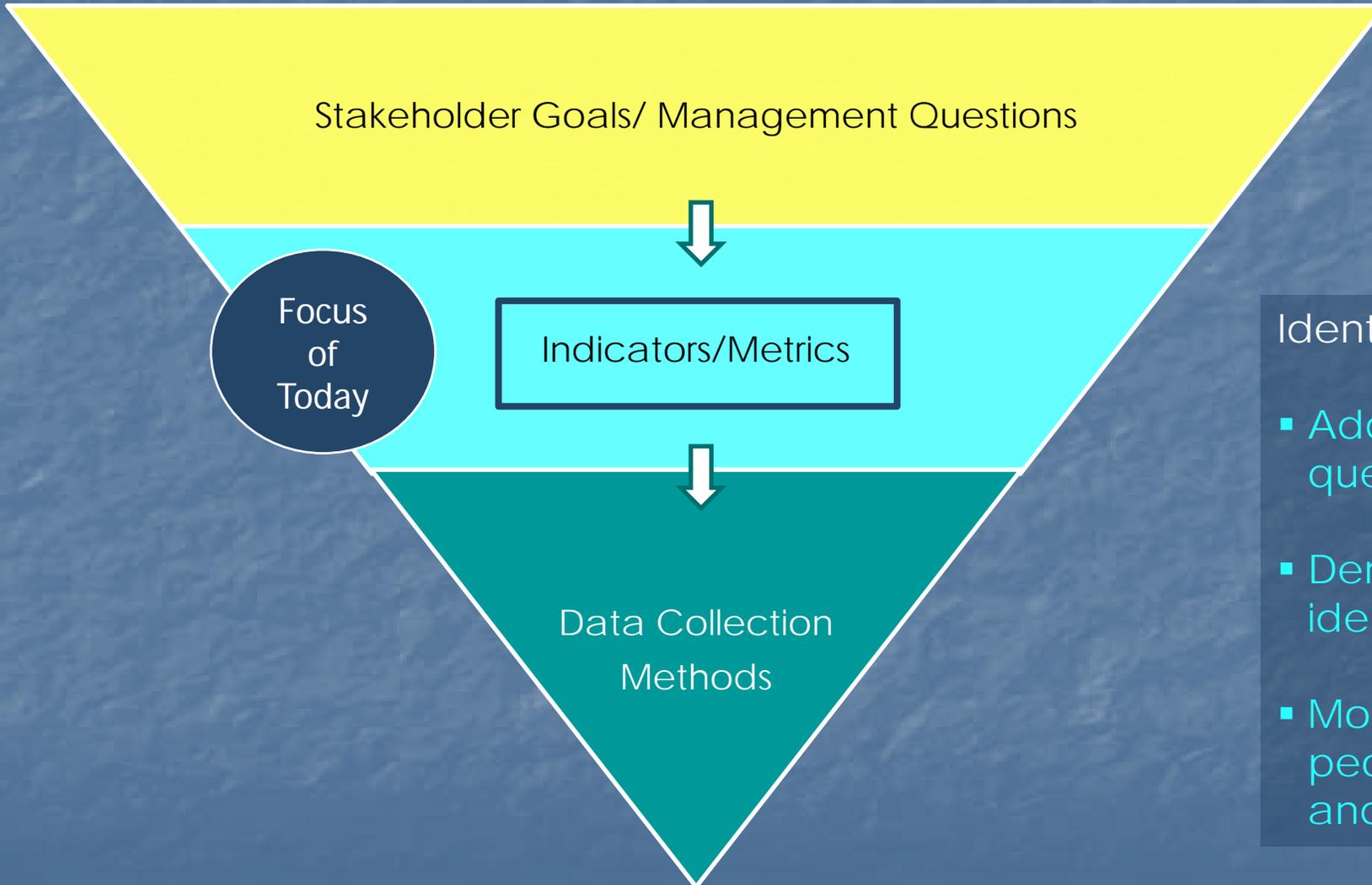
2. Visitor Use of Project Area:

- Inform how people engage in outdoor recreation or engage with nature, history, or culture
- Potential Methods: Demographic info, visitor surveys, observations of visitors

3. Co-benefits Conferred by Project:

- Depends on co-benefit targeted
- Some methods exist

Context for Workshop



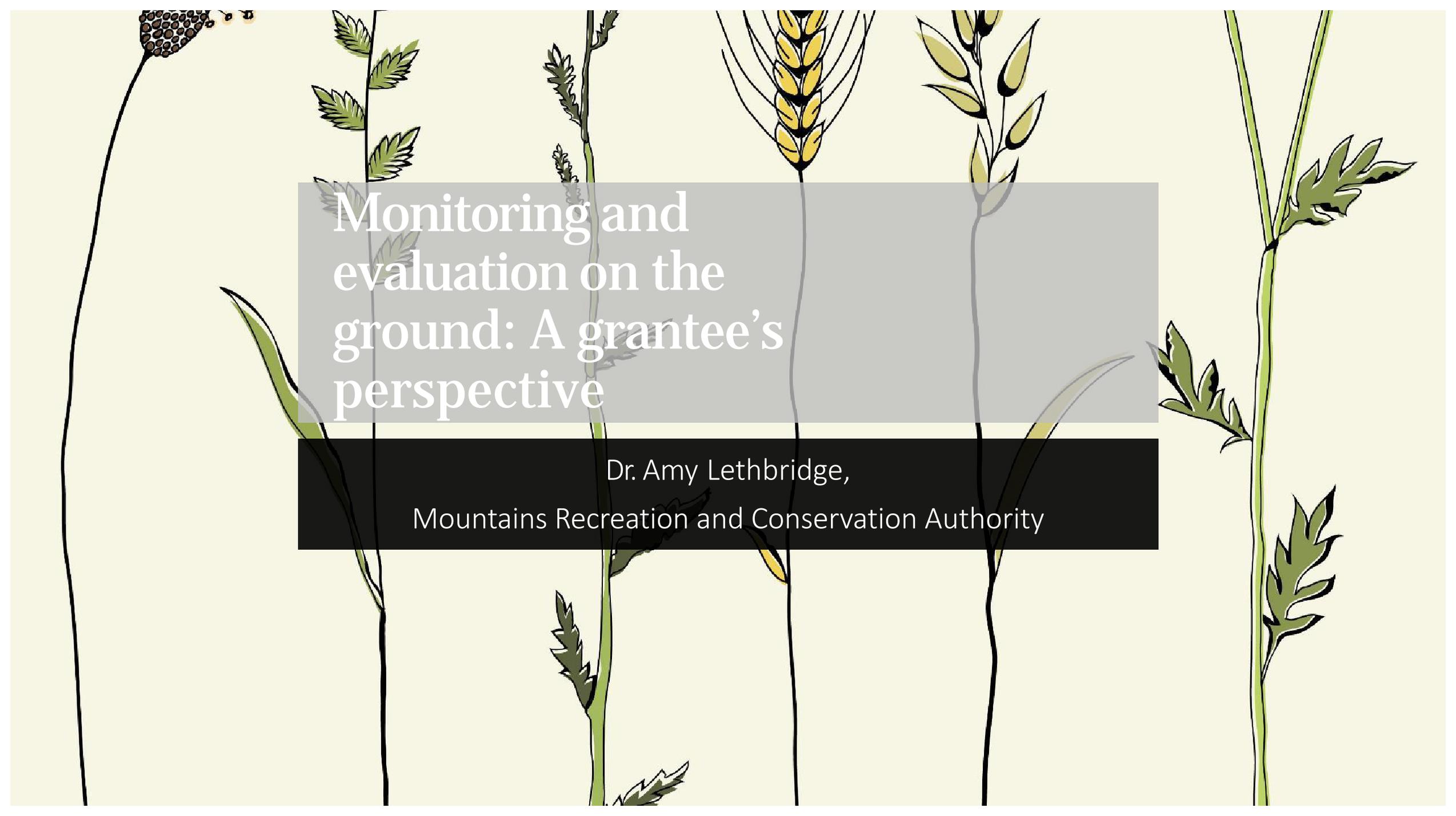
Identify indicators/metrics that can:

- Address specific management questions
- Demonstrate that a project met its identified goals
- Monitor our progress enhancing people's ability/desire to recreate and be in nature

Q & A

If we are not able to address your question during the meeting, feel free to email MSU@resources.ca.gov





Monitoring and
evaluation on the
ground: A grantee's
perspective

Dr. Amy Lethbridge,
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority



Goal alignment

Are we all trying to do and measure the same thing?



Agency goals

+

Partner goals

+

Visitor experience



E & M – Who? What? How?

Bring in the Experts



Using “outside” expertise to work with agency and partners

Technical Assistance



Training partners in best practices and co-designing with specific goals in mind

Funding



Covering staffing costs to fulfill E&M goals, especially beyond life of capital project



Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Everyone on the same page

Framework

- A monitoring & evaluation framework outlines the objectives, inputs, outputs and outcomes of the intended project and the indicators that will be used to measure all these.
- These should be developed with input from stakeholders

Assumptions

Framework should include what assumptions will be adopted as part of implementation and review.

What assumption are made about status quo? What are you trying to measure?

Were these assumptions checked for site specific applicability?

Communications

Clear and inclusive communication about this framework to everyone involved with the monitoring and evaluation process but ALSO with planners, implementers, field staff who are maintaining, etc.



Acknowledging and/or creating a baseline



Baseline data

Does it exist?

Does it exist in a useable form?

Are there other layers of data

Do we agree on the problem we are solving?



Creating new or adding to existing baseline

Is the goal increasing something i.e. use, protected area,

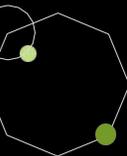
Decreasing something i.e. damage to resources,



Recreation and Access goals

How to tie capital improvement goals with recreation and access goals.

Are you measure numbers? Or experience?



Methodology

There is an opportunity for success



All about the number

More people (or less) visiting or engaging in certain behaviors does not always tell you why.

Qualitative tends to be easiest to both manage and implement.



Narrative and the experience

Why visitors make certain choices, engage in certain behaviors is an important component.

The experience as part of the evaluation – was it meaningful? Did you grow/change because of it?



Key questions

Will you come back?

Do you know how to come back? Tools and knowledge

Are there barriers to you coming back?



Impact of capital projects on Recreation and Access

Vital Signs

National Park Service
identifying important “vital
signs”—measurable
attributes indicative of
ecological health.

Visitor Use & Impact monitoring

Make sure you look at the
why and not just the what.

3 Es – Engineering,
education and enforcement

Inclusion of users and field
staff in determining issues
and projects

Barriers to visitation

Understanding barriers to
access is critical first step to
incorporating goals that
decrease such barriers and
avoid increasing such barriers



BARRIERS

TO ACCESSING
THE OUTDOORS INCLUDE...



Lack of PROXIMITY

And/or transportation to surrounding nature can prevent urban communities from visiting nearby regional parks and open space.



Lack of outdoor social or FAMILY NETWORKS

HOW OUR PROGRAMS ADDRESS BARRIERS...



- Public programs such as Transit to Trails provide free transportation to and from regional parks from community hubs. Day-long family friendly programs are promoted in partnership with community-based organizations.
- Interpretive programs such as campfires are held in local parks, activating urban parks as gateways to nature.
- CNC advocates for public transportation routes from urban areas to public lands.



- Multi-generational programming
- Program partnerships with community-based organizations
- Outreach and engagement with groups that serve families





Lack of REPRESENTATION

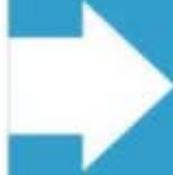
Of diverse communities in staff, volunteers, and visitors in the parks and outdoor fields



- Targeted recruitment for career development and training programs that create a pipeline for youth and adults from underrepresented communities to enter careers in the parks and outdoor fields
- Representational promotional flyers, websites, and other printed and web materials
- Partnerships with college and universities



Lack of KNOWLEDGE and awareness of outdoor opportunities

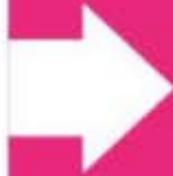


- Public programs featuring outdoor skills
- Guided hikes and facilitated experiences designed for first time park visitors
- Youth leadership programs that provide an introduction to the outdoor experience inspiring future stewards, advocates, ambassadors



Lack of RESOURCES

Such as funds, equipment, and information



- Free programs with transportation, gear, and guidance provided
- Equipment loan programs
- Maps with public transportation routes
- Resources in multiple languages





Thank You

Contact information:

Amy.Lethbridge@mrca.ca.gov

310-985-5127



Q & A

If we are not able to address your question during the meeting, feel free to email MSU@resources.ca.gov



**Are any of the following
barriers to access common
in your program?**

You should see a poll pop-up in
your zoom screen shortly- thanks
for participating!



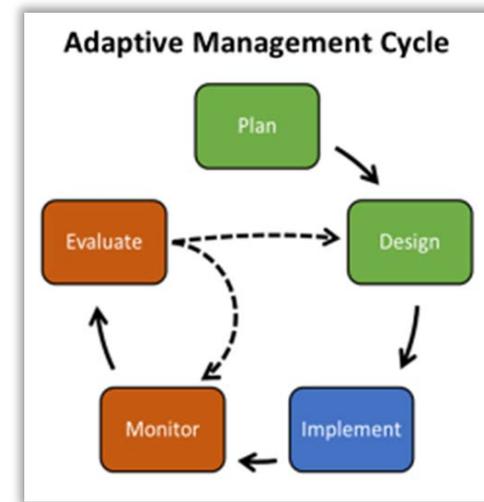
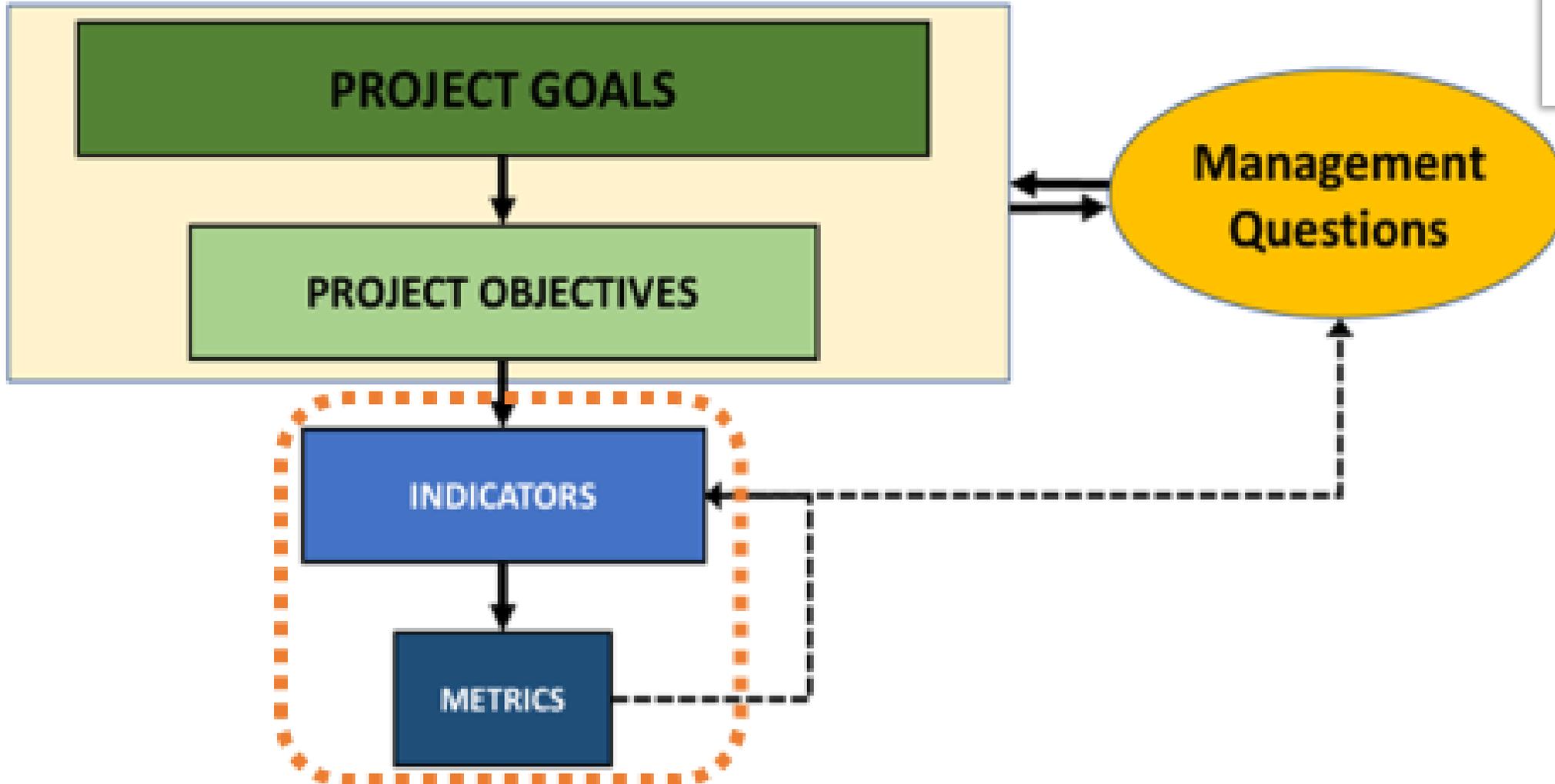
Project Performance Guiding Principles and Screening Criteria

Elea Becker Lowe

Environmental Scientist, MSU



PROCESS





What is a Wetland?

Wetlands are areas where the land is wet for at least some portion of the year, and where most of the plants grow wholly or partially in water. Some wetlands may have visible water throughout the year, while some just seem to be soggy. Each type of wetland provides a unique habitat for the plant and animal species that live there.

Types of Wetlands

Wetlands have several types of wetland habitat. These include the creek which flows year round, and several ditches and low-lying areas that are visibly wet mostly in the winter and spring.

Why Wetlands are Important

- Wetlands help with flood control by temporarily detaining the flow of water. Up to 1.5 million gallons of floodwater can be stored by an acre of wetland.
- Water quality is improved by wetlands absorbing and filtering sediment and pollutants.
- As many as 50% of the North American bird species nest or feed in wetlands.
- 41 of California's rare and endangered species are supported by wetlands.
- A whopping 31% of our plant species are found in wetlands - incredible when you consider that wetlands only account for about 5% of the land surface in the continental United States.

Soaking it Up

Wetlands act like a big sponge to catch and hold water and to scrub it as it drains through the plants and soil.

Handwritten notes:
 The original...
 California...
 7-26



SMART Criteria

Specific

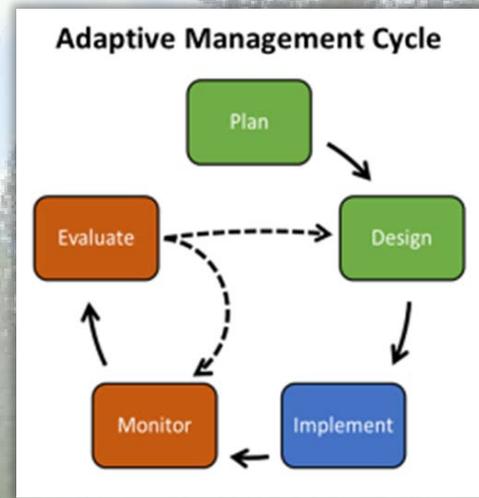
Measurable

Achievable

Representative

Time-bound/time-specific

RAPTR-ready



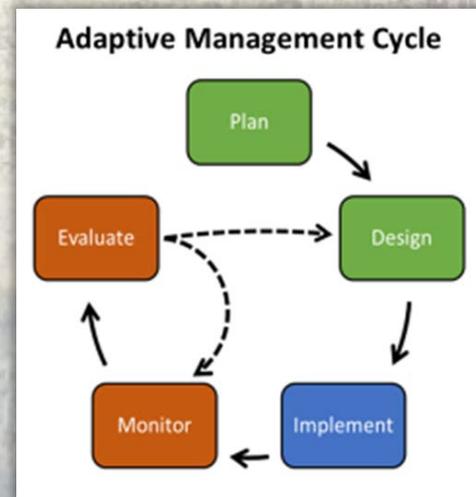
Additional Criteria Considered

Cost-effectiveness

Labor Capacity (staff time)

Access to Applicable Technology

Availability of Technical Expertise



Breakout Instructions: Leveraging and Evaluating Indicators and Metrics

Julia Van Horn, Associate Facilitator- CSUS



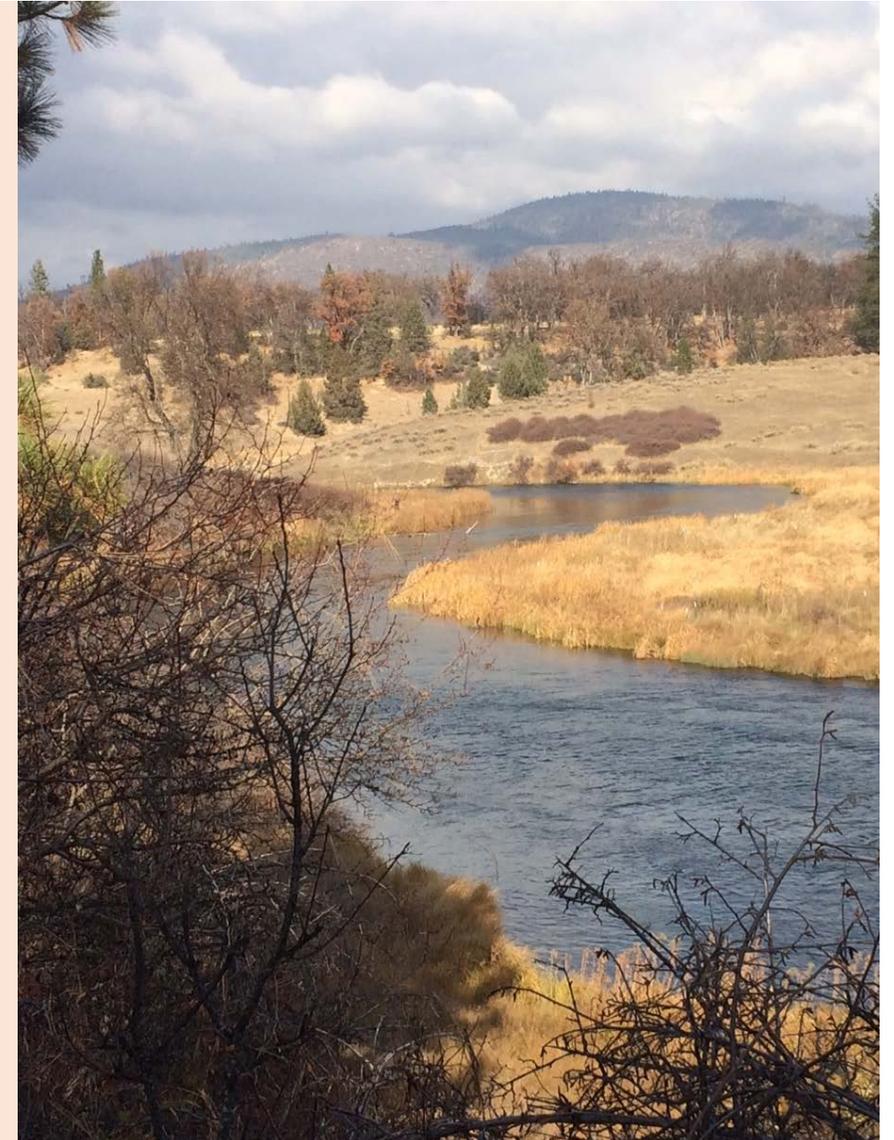
Breakout Discussion Process

Three breakouts focusing on the three management questions:

Project Site Condition: Can visitors safely use the project area and the infrastructure/amenities within it?

Public Use of Project Site: Who uses the project area and amenities and for what purpose? If project goals included increasing access or recreation opportunities for a specific demographic or community, have those goals been met?

Co-benefits: What co-benefits does the project confer?



Breakout Discussion Mechanics

Three rounds. You will be assigned to a group that will rotate together from one question to the next in three rounds of breakouts.

Round 1: 45 minutes (initial work)

Round 2: 35 minutes (add on)

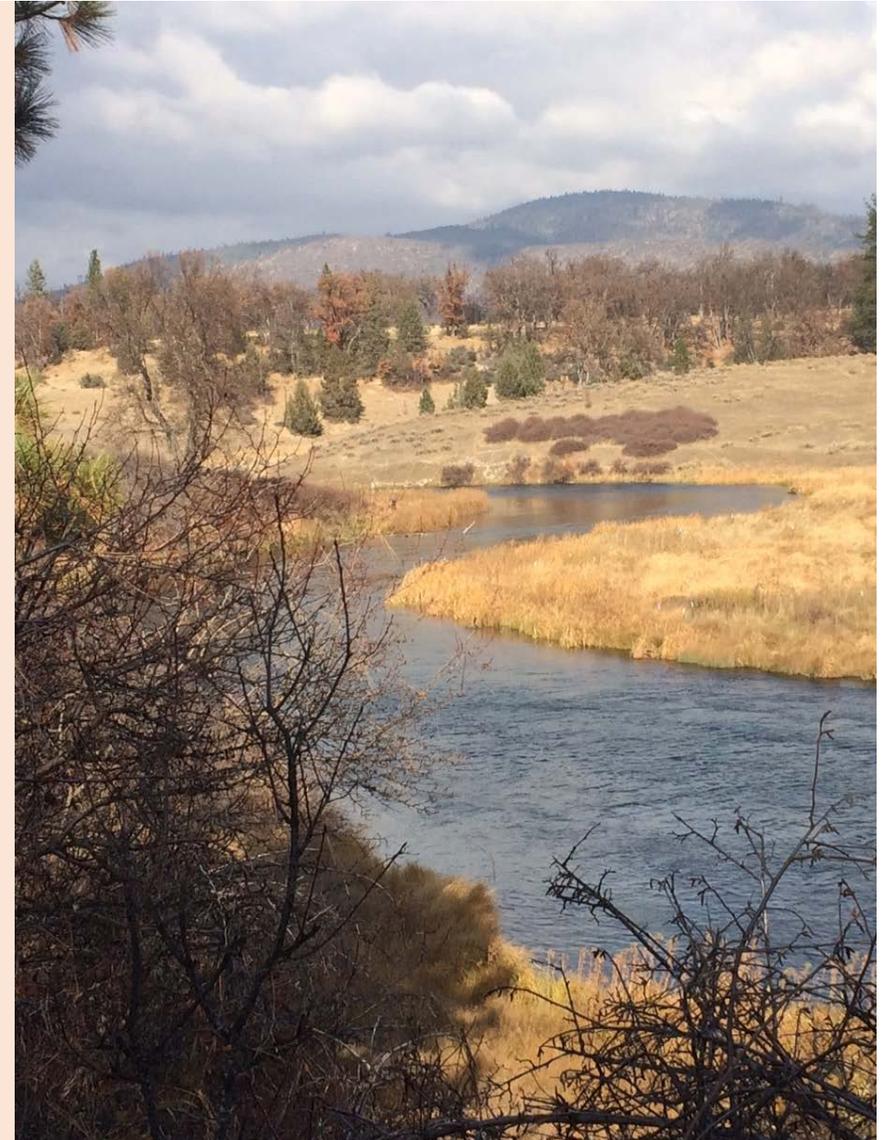
Round 3: 35 minutes (add on)

Host. Each breakout room has an MSU Staff who will be tracking the discussion on a template specific to each question.

Introductions. Please take few moments to introduce yourselves.

Reporter. Before starting the last round, please identify a participant who is willing to report out on behalf of the group on key themes that you discussed. You will have 3-5 minutes to report out. Please be concise!

Report out. At the end of the third breakout session, you will be directed back to the full meeting to share your thoughts.



Breakout Discussion Process

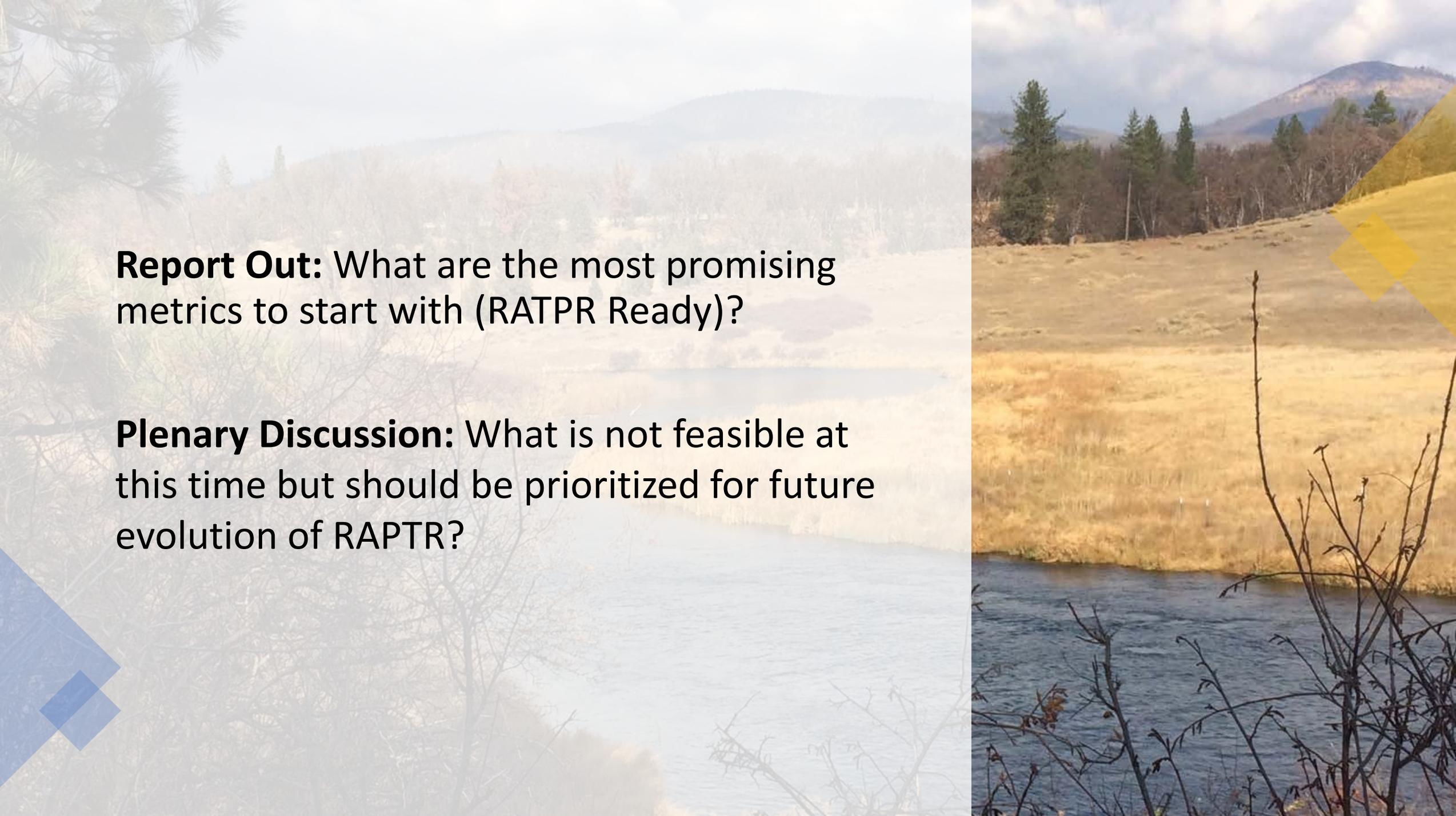
Questions to be addressed during the three sessions:

1. What are potential indicators/metrics that can be used to help address the questions?
2. Where can this information be found? Documents, tools, etc.
3. What can we learn from an initial SMART analysis about the appropriateness of incorporating these indicators/metrics into the RAPTR system?
4. Which indicators/metrics show the most promise in responding to the management questions and included in the RAPTR system?



MANAGEMENT QUESTION 3 (CO-BENEFITS): WHAT CO-BENEFITS DOES THE PROJECT CONFER?									
EXAMPLE: Indicator 1 – Reduction in the Urban Heat Island Effect in the Project area									
Metric	Information Sources/Not Yet Collected	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Representative	Time-bound	RAPTR Ready	Notes	Recommendations YES (Go with it) MAYBE (Do more research) NO (Not for RAPTR)
<i>Temperature inside the project area, as compared to nearby urban area</i>		Y	Y	?	Y	Y	Y	Would require access to temperature measurements taken outside project area at same time; weather stations not accurate enough	Maybe (may be staffing issues)
Indicator 2:									
Metric	Information	S	M	A	R	T	RR	Notes	Recommendations

Breakout Discussion Reporting Table



Report Out: What are the most promising metrics to start with (RAPTR Ready)?

Plenary Discussion: What is not feasible at this time but should be prioritized for future evolution of RAPTR?

Utility of RAPTR in your work

You should see a poll pop-up in
your zoom screen shortly- thanks
for participating!



Wrap Up and Next Steps

Gina Ford, MSU



Workshop Series Timeline

**April 2020:
Kick-off
Meeting**

**September 3, 2020:
Workshop 2**

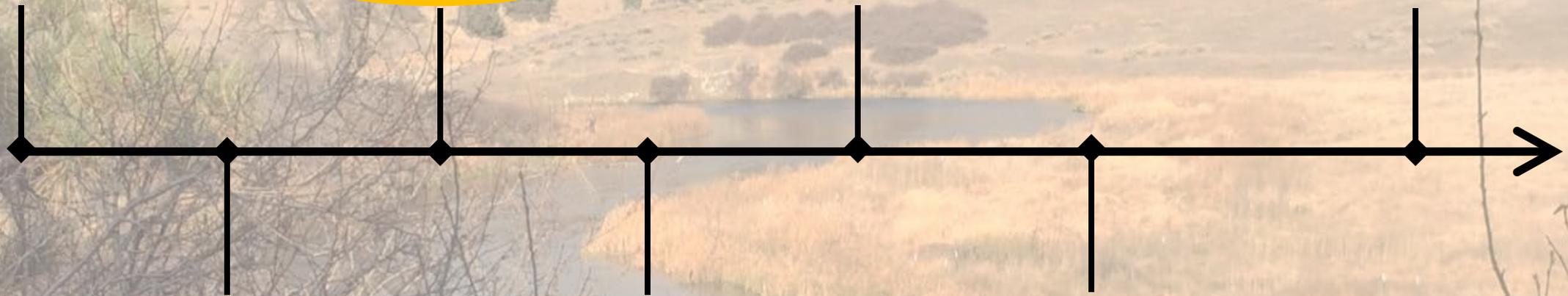
**Early 2021:
Workshop 4**

**Summer 2021:
Wrap-up Meeting**

**July 15, 2020:
Workshop 1**

**Early 2021:
Workshop 3**

**Spring 2021:
Workshop 5**



Thank you for joining us today!

Thanks to Rae Eaton for leading this Recreation & Access workshop
and her contributions to the MSU

Follow up related to this workshop will come from Elea Becker Lowe;
feel free to share additional thoughts and input by emailing us at

MSU@resources.ca.gov

Or visit our webpage for more information:

<https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Monitoring-and-Stewardship-Unit>