The Sierra
Meadows
Partnership
Collaborative meadow
restoration and protection

Prioritization Committee Work Plan

Introduction and Purpose

The Sierra Meadows Partnership (SMP) identified a tool for helping prioritize meadow restoration as among its five highest priorities to achieve the goals of the partnership. The purpose of the Prioritization Committee is to develop a tool that will provide a strategic, flexible approach for prioritizing meadows for restoration and protection in order to maximize project benefits, reach desired meadow conditions as described in the Sierra Meadow Strategy, and increase the efficacy of the SMP.

Objectives

- Develop a scalable, flexible framework for prioritization that provides a suite of conservation targets, additional data inputs, and relevant scales from which the user can select to tailor decision-making.
- Provide a one-stop-shop for SMP members to access, leverage, and integrate existing tools and data sets used in meadow restoration, management planning, and decision-making.
- Generate a targeted list of meadows that meet the individual user's needs that can be used for on-the-ground site assessments and further prioritization efforts on a finer scale.
- Provide integration with the UC Davis Meadows Clearinghouse to facilitate project tracking and easy access to monitoring and meadow condition data relevant to ongoing prioritization and planning efforts.
- Contribute to transparent decision-making for the SMP and justify decisions to funders and others.
- Facilitate the identification of new critical research questions and data gaps necessary for informed decision-making and that can be used to update the tool as new information becomes available.

Importance to Sierra Meadow Strategy

Our work fits under Approach 1 of the Sierra Meadow Strategy, which is to restore and/or protect meadows to achieve desired conditions. The prioritization tool will help increase the pace, scale, and, most importantly, the efficacy of meadow restoration and protection by providing a flexible, strategic approach to decision-making that will ensure the projects we pursue achieve multiple benefits and are the best investment of our limited resources. The tool will also help clarify desired meadow conditions to inform restoration design, monitoring, and adaptive management.

Task List with Completion Dates

Task			Completion Date
1		**Review existing prioritization and decision support tools.**	
	1.1	Compile list of existing prioritization tools	April 2018
	1.2	Develop brief summaries of each identified tool	April 2018
	1.3	Identify a subset of tools for which we want to gather more information	April 2018
	1.4	Identify gaps and unmet needs in existing tools	April 2018
2		**Refine conservation targets, indicators, scales, and additional data inputs.**	
	2.1	Reach out to tribal contacts to identify additional items to be captured in prioritization tool	April 2018
	2.2	Align on refined list of conservation targets and rationale for inclusion	April 2018
	2.3	Identify spatially explicit indicators of conservation targets for use in mapping tool	May 2018
	2.4	Revise TNC's 2015 Methods document for prioritization based on refined targets and indicators	May 2018
	2.5	Develop and align on refined list of scales for inclusion in the tool	May 2018
	2.6	Develop and align on list of additional data inputs/filters	May 2018
3		**Integrate workgroup efforts with other committees**	
	3.1	Develop task list and key questions for integration with WRAMP committee	April 2018
	3.2	Meet with WRAMP committee	April 2018
	3.3	Develop task list and key questions for integration with design committee	May 2018
	3.4	Meet with design committee	May 2018
	3.5	Develop task list and key questions for integration with permitting committee	May 2018
	3.6	Meet with permitting committee	May 2018
4		**Develop a conceptual model of the prioritization tool and identify data layers**	
	4.1	Refine and align on prioritization tool purpose, objectives, and tool output/s	May 2018
	4.2	Develop flow chart for overall meadow restoration/protection cycle that integrates deliverables of other work groups.	June 2018
	4.3	Compile data layers for conservation target indicators, scales, and additional data inputs/filters	August 2018
	4.4	Develop relational model linking targets, indicators, scales, and data inputs/filters to data layers and tool output/s	August 2018
5		**Build prioritization tool**	
	5.1	Identify location for tool to live	October 2018
	5.2	Explore integration with UC Davis Meadows Clearinghouse	October 2018
	5.3	Develop budget and secure funding	October 2018
	5.4	Identify contractor for building tool	October 2018
	5.5	Identify tool host and long-term tool maintenance	October 2018
	5.6	Generate flexible weighting scheme for tool inputs	October 2018
	5.7	Alpha testing of tool	January 2019
6		**Pilot and finalize tool**	
	6.1	Pilot tool in different prioritization processes to test efficacy	March 2019
	6.2	Generate first cut list of meadows to serve as representative snapshot of priorities	March 2019
	6.3	Develop user guide	March 2019
	6.4	Develop report with case studies/examples	March 2019
	6.5	Tool goes live	March 2019

Task Descriptions and Deliverables

Task 1: Review existing prioritization and decision support tools.

Under this task, we will identify, review, and summarize existing meadow prioritization and decision support tools in order to identify gaps and unmet needs that could be met by our tool as well as tools that should be integrated into our prioritization tool. We will also identify conservation planning/prioritization tools that we could use to model our tool after.

	Deliverables	Completion Date
1	List of meadow-specific tools with summaries about utility	April 2018
2	List of a subset of meadow-specific tools for further research and integration into our tool	April 2018
3	Summary of findings about data gaps and unmet needs	April 2018
4	List of conservation planning/prioritization tools that we could model our tool after	April 2018

Task 2: Refine conservation targets, indicators, scales, and additional data inputs.

Under this task, we will identify and refine the conservation targets (e.g., species, water quality) and associated spatially explicit indicators (e.g., critical habitat units, listed watersheds), scales (e.g., county, national forest, watershed), and additional data inputs (e.g., climate vulnerability) that will form the basis for our prioritization tool.

	Deliverables	Completion Date
1	List of conservation targets with rationale/criteria for inclusion	April 2018
2	Revised Methods document for prioritization with conservation targets and spatially explicit indicators	May 2018
3	List of scales and additional data inputs for inclusion in tool	May 2018

Task 3: Integrate workgroup efforts with other committees.

This task will be ongoing throughout the life of our work plan. In order to be efficient and streamline integration, we will arrange for the heads and/or key members of each group to meet to discuss key questions and tasks that require integration, with the option for other work group members to join. The heads of each work group should develop a structured agenda with a meeting target prior to the meeting to streamline integration efforts.

	Deliverables	Completion Date
1	List of considerations for integration into our tool from each work group	May 2018

Task 4: Develop a conceptual model of the prioritization tool and identify data layers.

Under this task, we will develop a conceptual model of the prioritization tool that will describe how we want the tool to function as well as how our conservation targets and indicators, scales, and additional data inputs will be integrated into the tool in the form of GIS layers. This will build off of the work done in tasks 1 and 2. We will also develop a flow chart that demonstrates how our prioritization tool can be integrated into the life cycle of meadow restoration and protection projects, with links to the deliverables of other work groups.

	Deliverables	Completion Date
1	Flow chart for overall meadow restoration and protection cycle	August 2018
2	Spreadsheet linking Task 2 deliverables to GIS data layers	August 2018
3	Conceptual model of prioritization tool	August 2018

Task 5: Build prioritization tool.

Under this task, we will identify a location for the tool to live, build the prioritization tool, and identify how the tool will be maintained over time.

	Deliverables	Completion Date
1	Tool developed and alpha testing	January 2019

Task 6: Pilot and finalize tool.

Under this task, we will pilot the prioritization tool to test efficacy in preparation for the tool to go live. We will also develop a user guide and report with case studies/examples that can be shared with the SMP members. The report will contain an example list of meadow priorities generated by the prioritization work group as an example of potential project priorities that will achieve multiple benefits.

	Deliverables	Completion Date
1	Prioritization tool user guide	March 2019
2	Prioritization tool report	March 2019

Budget

Task	Hours	Hourly Rate	Cost
Review existing prioritization and decision support tools	24	$69.50	$1,668.00
Refine conservation targets, indicators, scales, and additional data inputs	40	$69.50	$2,780.00
Integrate workgroup efforts with other committees	24	$69.50	$1,668.00
Develop conceptual model of prioritization tool and identify data layers	120	$69.50	$8,340.00
Build prioritization tool	80	$69.50	$5,560.00
Pilot and finalize tool	216	$69.50	$15,012.00
Develop Web interface/IT Support	220	$75.00	$16,500.00
Total Project Cost			**$51,528.00**
Matching Funds			
CalTrout Funding SMP – In hand			$4000
NFWF Funding for Pilot - Pending			$15000
Point Blue Match – In hand			$4500
Funding Needed			$28,028.00