Sierra Meadows Partnership Overview

Ryan Burnett

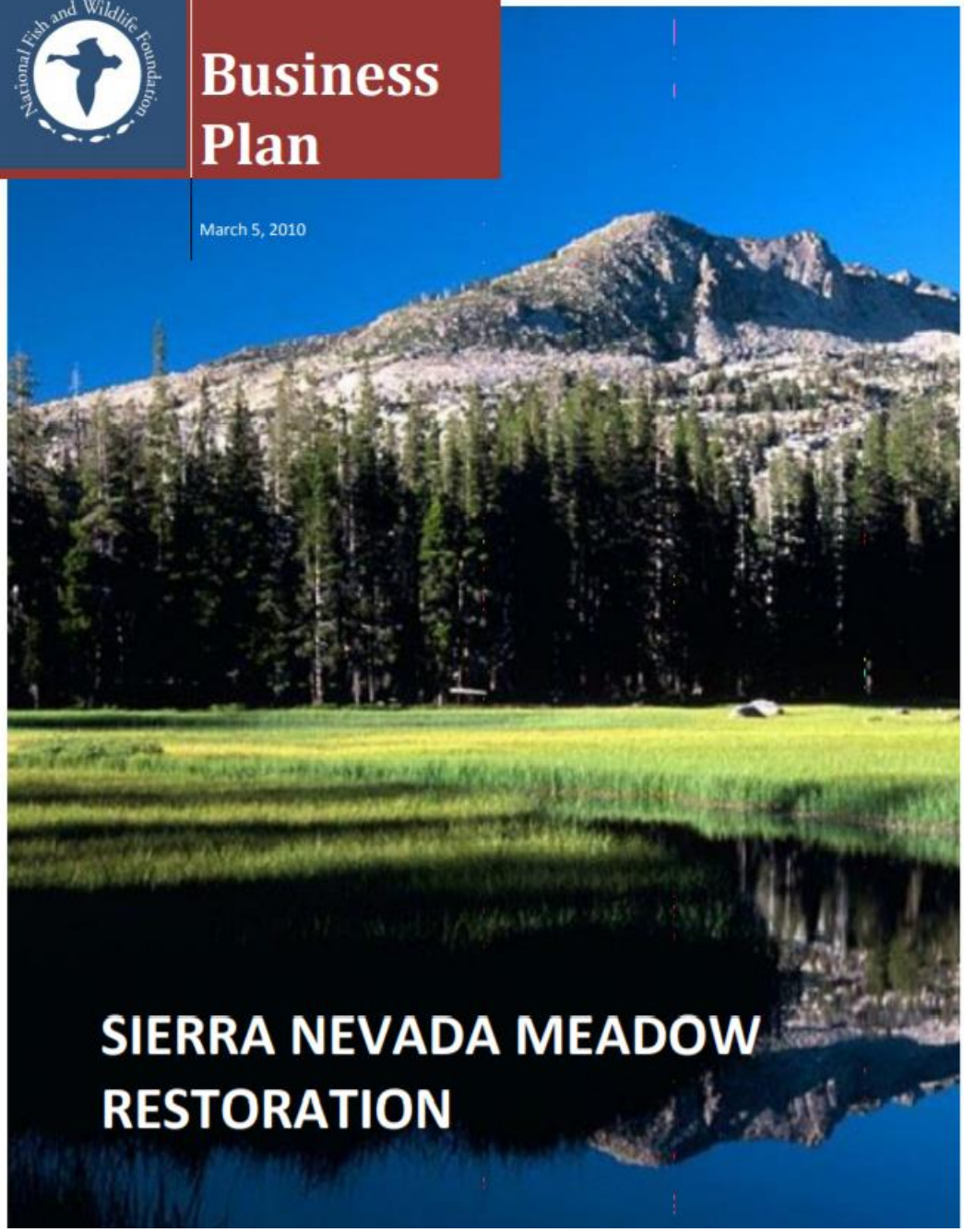
Tahoe City 5/30/18

Point Blue Conservation Science

Sierra Meadows Partnership
Restore & Protect 30,000 acres by 2030 that enhance water, carbon, and biodiversity benefits

Business Plan

March 5, 2010



SIERRA NEVADA MEADOW RESTORATION

Sierra Meadow Forum
Plumpjack – Tahoe 2011

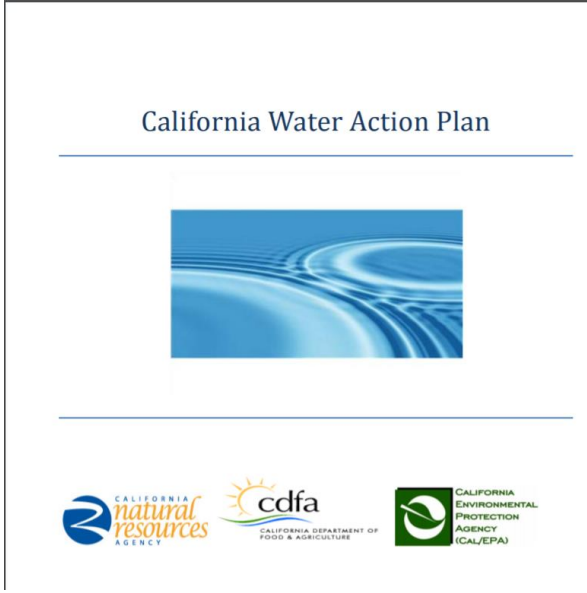
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

2013 - Forest Service Ecological Restoration Leadership Intent

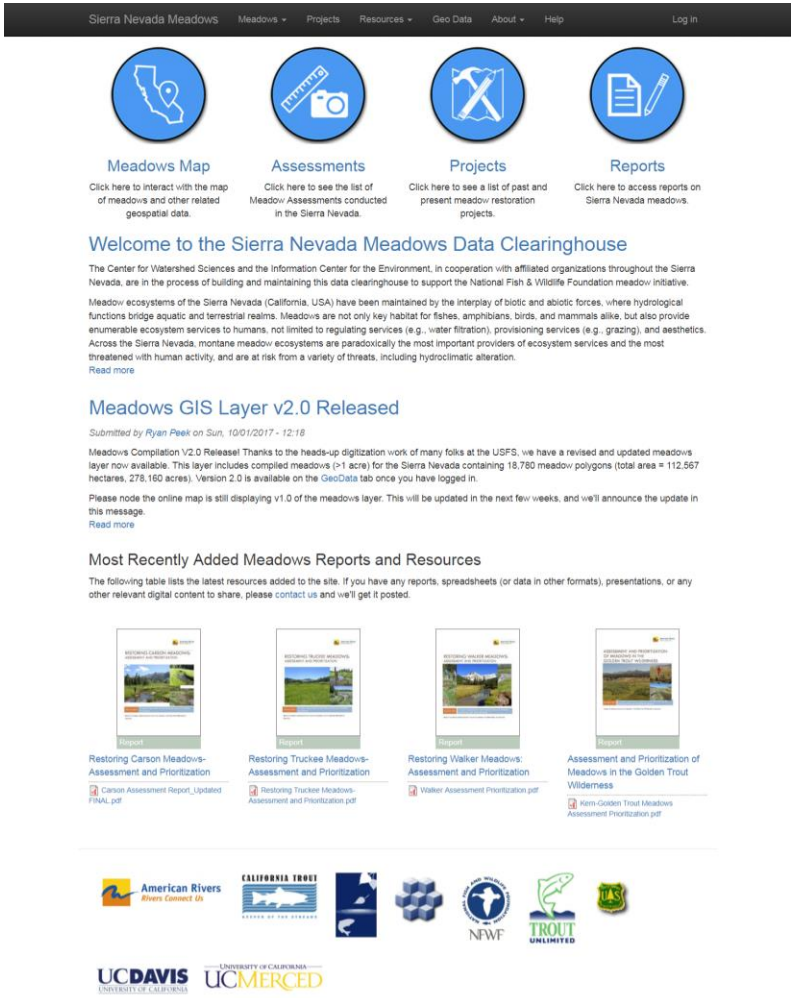
Implementation plan calls for restoration of 50% of the accessible degraded meadows in 15 – 20 years

2014 - Water Plan Explicitly Identifies Meadow Restoration as Action to Enhance Water Supply



Restore Key Mountain Meadow Habitat. The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in coordination with other state resource agencies, will restore 10,000 acres of mountain meadow habitat in strategic locations in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountain ranges, which can increase groundwater storage and provide habitat for more than 100 native species, many of which are at risk as threatened or endangered. The department will also coordinate with federal agencies, local governments, conservation organizations, tribes, and others as necessary on this action to maximize efforts and avoid duplication.

UCD Creates Meadow Inventory & Clearinghouse



Green House Gas Study -2015

CLIMATE

Can Meadows Rescue the Planet from CO_2?

An unusual research project is determining whether restoring California's meadows can reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide

By Jane Braxton Little on May 11, 2017

Sky Parlor Meadow in Tulare, California. *Credit: Miguel Vieira Flickr (CC BY 2.0)*

The record piles of snow across California's Sierra Nevada are melting away, exposing once again its breathtaking alpine meadows. As temperatures warm the moist soil, the meadows quicken, cycling carbon from the ground into the atmosphere and back again in a pattern essential to the planet's health. Scientists and land managers are heading into the mountains to measure the greenhouse gas activity at 16 hand-picked meadows—some recently restored, others degraded from a century of grazing and logging.

The four-year study is part of California's pioneering effort to reduce carbon emissions. The project is designed to determine whether restored meadows hold more carbon than those that have been degraded. The outcome could prove pivotal for California and the planet. Worldwide, soils store three times more carbon than vegetation and the atmosphere combined. If the research shows restored meadows improve carbon storage, it could stimulate meadow restoration around the world.

The $4.8-million project has an unusual twist, too. It is funded by the California Air Resources Board, which wants to know if restored meadows can hold enough tonnage of carbon dioxide equivalents, per acre per year, to qualify as carbon credits in California's cap-and-trade market. "It's kind of geeky but we're poised to do something that's never been done with alpine meadows," says Mark Drew, Sierra Headwaters director at California Trout, who is coordinating the work.

Don't Miss | Bird Cams! | Year of the Bird | Video: Diversity and Audubon | Grow Native Plants | Audubon Products

Audubon

Take Action | Join | Renew | Donate Now

News | Magazine | Featured | Birds | Get Outside | Conservation | About Us

Climate

Can Restored Meadows Fight Climate Change? California Seeks to Find Out

California's cap-and-trade extension, passed by lawmakers this week, ensures continued study of whether Sierra Nevada meadow restoration can capture carbon pollution and help birds at once.

By Jane Braxton Little

July 19, 2017

Birds in This Story

Amid Ice Melt, New Shipping Lanes Are Drawn Up off Alaska

The Science of Endometriosis

Calistoga – 2015 1st Sierra Meadows Workshop

Increase in Collaboration

Sequoia Meadows Prioritization

Pickle & Osa Meadow Restoration Projects

Restoration Design Workshop

Prop 1 2018 – WRAMP

Climate Smart Restoration Workshops

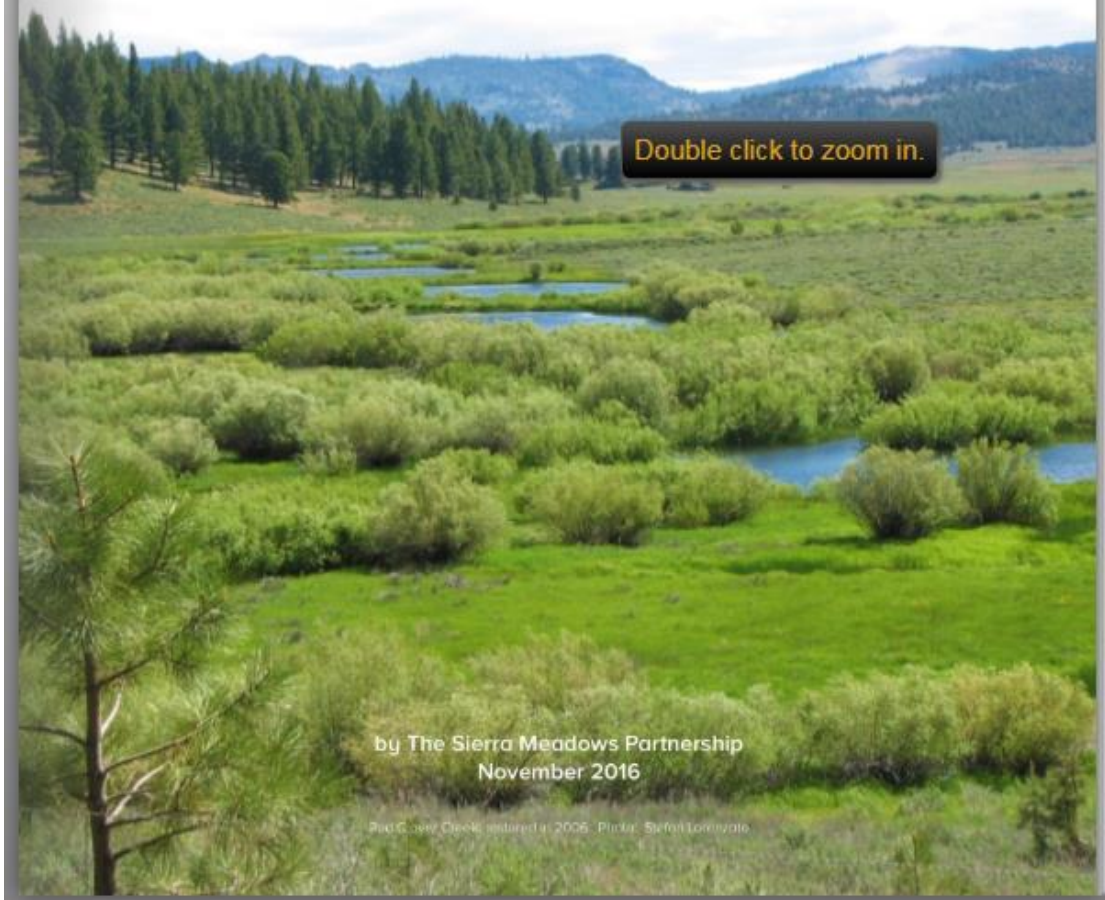
NFWF USFS Fire Settlement RFP – 2018

Wildlife Conservation Board RFP - 2018

FULL REPORT

Sierra Meadows Strategy

An "all-hands, all-lands" approach to
increasing the pace, scale and efficacy of meadow restoration
and protection throughout the Greater Sierra Nevada.



by The Sierra Meadows Partnership
November 2016

Red Clover Creek, restored in 2006. Photo: Stefan Lorenzato

SMP Strategy Identifies 3 Approaches

1. Restore and/or protect meadows to achieve desired conditions
2. Enhance regulatory & institutional funding capacity and coordination
3. Increase & diversify institutional & partnership capacity for restoration/protection

1. Restore and Protect

A. 30,000 acres supporting hydrologic and ecological functionality are restored/protected

B. Meadow soil resources are protected

C. Habitat conditions that support meadow dependent species are restored/protected

D. Stressors affecting health are mitigated

2. Enhance Coordination & Funding

A. Establish effective, efficient, and coordinated regulatory requirements

B. Establish sufficient and diverse funding sources

3. Increase & Diversify Capacity for Restoration/Protection

A. Active participation of all-lands in meadow projects

B. State & regional water planning efforts address meadows

We identified 5 Initial Priorities to Increase Pace, Scale, and Efficacy

- Prioritization
- Collaborative Design
- Cohesive Monitoring Strategy
- Streamlined Permitting
- Outreach

My Thoughts on Where We Are Going

Complete Tasks in Work plans

Measure/track/report our progress

Watershed scale approaches

Answer Key Questions

Formalize collaboration with agencies/other stakeholders to achieve mutually held goals

We All Have to Own It!

Point Blue