The Role of Land Trusts in the Sierra Meadows Partnership

Marian Vernon, Point Blue
Markley Bavinger, Trust for Public Land
Vincent Rogers, Feather River Land Trust
‘Beautifully remodeled Tahoe Keys...’
The Language of ‘Protection’

● Two primary tools for permanent protection
● When fee acquisition makes sense
  ○ Critical, sensitive habitat that is incompatible with other uses
  ○ Inholding or adjacent to public land
  ○ ‘Unfriendly’ landowner
  ○ Full site control needed for restoration
● When a Conservation Easement makes sense
  ○ Habitat compatible with other uses
  ○ Adjacent to private land
  ○ ‘Friendly’ landowner
  ○ Restoration and future monitoring/management allowed by owner
Providing a venue...

- Land trust lands can serve as a venue for restoration practice
  - A nimble and willing landowner
  - Ecological restoration is an implied responsibility as good stewards

- Lands trusts can serve as a liaison to private landowners
  - Working with CE partner-landowners to enact restoration on their lands
  - Coordinating fund development to protect a valued place in the community
  - Provide knowledge and expertise on transactions & due diligence

- Land trust stewardship staff are well-versed in the practical aspects of on-the-ground management
  - Implementation- scoping, contractor selection/relations, partner/volunteer engagement
  - Building and maintaining infrastructure (e.g. fencing) that protects a resource or site

- Because of **capacity constraints** we will be relying on SMP’s **practitioner insight** on design and monitoring practice
FRLT examples...

- **Mountain Meadows Reservoir**, 2018, 7058 acres total (~1000 acres of meadow)
- **Humbug Valley**, 2325 acres total (~1500 acres of meadow)
- **Sierra Valley Regional Conservation Partnership Project**
- **Heart K Ranch**, 903 acres (~650 acres of meadow)
- **Sierra Valley Preserve** ~2586 acres total (wetland complex, meadow margins)
- **Olsen Barn Meadow**, 2015, 107 acres total, predominantly meadow
Point Blue’s work with land trusts

• Piloted SMP meadow prioritization tool for Feather River LT’s strategic conservation assessment

• Assisting TPL with the design of a climate-smart CE for Mountain Meadows

• Led climate-smart meadow restoration workshop with TRWC for Sardine Meadow, owned by The Trust for Public Land

• Conducted monitoring on land trust properties (2 CE, 1 Fee) to assess meadow, riparian, wetland, and rangeland health
Thank you!