

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance

About ESWA

The Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance (ESWA) is an informal, regional collaborative focused on building wildfire resilient communities and landscapes in Alpine, Inyo, and Mono Counties. ESWA members understand that working together on a regional and landscape level can lead to better outcomes and increased funding opportunities. ESWA recognizes that all lands in the Eastern Sierra are the ancestral lands of local Tribes and these lands have been and continue to be stewarded by Indigenous people.

Mission

To strengthen wildfire resilience across Eastern Sierra communities and landscapes by identifying shared priorities and improving coordination of projects, resources, and actions.

Values

Collaborative: We work together to align priorities, leverage strengths and resources, and identify and implement solutions.

Innovative: We embrace new ideas, ensuring that the solutions we identify are pragmatic, adaptive, and sustainable.

Inclusive: We take a comprehensive approach that respects the diversity of partners within our community and values all opinions.

Transparent: We strive for open communication and information sharing, with the goal of earning and maintaining the trust of each other and the public.

Committed: We are invested in our communities and dedicated to reliably implementing and maintaining projects.

Goals

- Build wildfire-resilient communities and landscapes across the Eastern Sierra region by working together
- Do more good work on the ground through projects
- Enhance communication among ESWA members

Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to document the commitment of ESWA members to work collaboratively to strengthen wildfire resilience in the Eastern Sierra and outline the basic organizational structure of the Alliance. This MOU is intended to be adaptive and can be modified according to ESWA needs.

Authority and Funding

This MOU is not a commitment of funds by any ESWA member to any other party or any third party. This MOU does not commit any party or any individual ESWA member to fund any proposed project or administration of ESWA.

This MOU creates no right, benefit, or responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity. The parties shall manage their respective resources and activities in a separate, coordinated, and mutually beneficial manner to meet the purpose(s) of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU authorizes any of the parties to obligate or transfer anything of value. Nothing in this MOU is intended to alter, limit or expand the parties' statutory and regulatory authority.

Organizational Structure

General Membership: ESWA membership is open. Any agency, organization, or individual contributing to regional wildfire resilience is welcome to join ESWA. Examples of entities currently participating in ESWA include Tribal nations, federal government agencies and land managers, state agencies, local governments, special districts, fire agencies, fire safe councils, Firewise communities, nonprofit/nongovernmental organizations, consultants, private landowners, businesses, academic institutions, funders, and implementation partners. Members may join or leave the ESWA at any time.

Steering Committee: The Steering Committee provides oversight and direction for administration of ESWA, supports meeting planning, and makes recommendations to general membership. The Steering Committee shall strive for equitable geographic representation across the region and work to develop a plan for supporting the administrative burden on behalf of the collaborative.

The Steering Committee is made up of one representative from the following groups:

- Whitebark Institute
- Eastern Sierra Council of Governments
- County of Inyo
- County of Mono
- County of Alpine
- Each Participating Tribe *(if desired)*
- California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- Federal Land Management Agencies *(BLM | USFS | NPS)*
- U.S. Wildland Fire Service *(if desired)*
- Los Angeles Department of Water & Power *(if desired)*
- Community Resilience Working Group
- Local Fire Department Representative
- At Large Community Representatives *(from each member county, if desired)*

Administration & Staffing: The administration of ESWA is supported by funding partners and Steering Committee members who provide time and resources to plan and facilitate meetings, support communication among members, provide technical support, and maintain shared resources such as a website and project portfolio. Future administration and staffing needs may

also include fiscal management, a collaborative coordinator, communications, and technical support.

Standing Working Groups will be created and appointed by ESWA to inform collaborative planning and project development. Working groups will meet as needed. Standing working groups include:

- Funding
- Projects
- Communications
- Community Resilience (including Firesafe Councils and Firewise Communities)
- Biomass utilization

Ad Hoc Working Groups: ESWA can form issue-specific working groups as needed.

Meetings: Full ESWA meetings will be held quarterly and are open to the public. Meetings may be held at locations throughout the region and may include field trips. More frequent meetings may be held as needed.

Term of Agreement

Participation: ESWA member signatories may be added at any time before the date of expiration.

Termination: Any of the parties, in writing, may terminate their participation in this MOU in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.

Modification: This MOU is at-will and may be modified only by mutual written consent of all member signatories by the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all properly authorized, signatory officials, prior to any changes being performed.

Commencement/Expiration: This MOU shall become effective for signatories on the date of signature and is effective through December 31, 2031 at which time it will expire.

Authorized Representatives: By signature below, each individual certifies that they are authorized to act on behalf of their organization and commit the organization represented as a party to this MOU.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this MOU.

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Name, Title | Date |
| Organization | |

Name, Title
Organization

Date

Name, Title
Organization

Date

Name, Title
Organization

Date