

Changes in SNC Strategic Plan Following June 1 Board Review

The Final Draft of the SNC Strategic Plan dated July 7, 2006 contains a number of changes from the April version reviewed by the Board at the June 1 Board meeting. The changes reflect direction from the Board, as well as some minor changes contained in public comments received prior to July 3, 2006.

Public comments (and resultant changes) included: strengthening the importance of tribal interaction; strengthening the importance of outreach to metropolitan areas; adding "local" to planning efforts that will be supported; recognition of potential impacts of public land management on local communities and landowners; clarification of areas included in the region in the glossary; and an emphasis on the education of youth regarding ecosystem and watershed health.

A few comments were received that were not integrated into the document, including the following: suggestion that "through collaboration and cooperation with local governments" be added to the mission statement (Placer County); a clear statement that any program or project of the SNC must have as its top priority conservation, restoration and protection of the area (Sierra Fund); concern that language in the "Implement a Balanced Program" might weaken the SNC commitment to such (RCRC); and the insertion of timelines for Program Goals (Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council). The Board may wish to discuss these suggested edits in more detail.

Finally, comments received after July 3, 2006 has resulted in a few recommended changes, identified in italics below. These changes have not been incorporated into the draft plan, but are recommended to be included in the final plan.

Following is a summary of key changes made to the Strategic Plan following the June 1, 2006 meeting and proposed further modifications in italics:

Vision Statement (p. 5)

Changes were made consistent with discussion at June 1 Board meeting.

Mission Statement (p. 5)

No changes were made (note Placer County comments).

Guiding Principles (p. 11)

Two objectives added under "Key Objectives"

- The SNC informs and educates the public throughout the Region and the state about the important contributions the Sierra Nevada provides to all Californians, including providing clean water for many uses outside the Sierra,

access to world-class recreation and tourism and the production of a variety of important commodities.

- The SNC strives to identify and implement activities that result in integrated environmental, economic and social benefits rather than “either or” outcomes.

One objective added under “Working with Others”

- The SNC convenes and facilitates interested parties to seek solutions for difficult problems to achieve environmental, economic and social benefits.

Agency Assessment (p. 13)

External

- Opening paragraph changes:
Add “(nearly 4 million Californians live within a 30 minute drive of the region).”
- Addition of # 8
“Provide solace and vacation opportunities for all.”

Resource Challenges (box on p. 14)

- Proposed addition in # 1:
“Approximately 70% of the forest and rangelands and 75% of homes in the region are at significant risk of fire” (FRAP Assessment for Sierra and Modoc bioregions)

Organizational Goals (p. 18)

Goal II

- Add 2.3 Identify and make available access to key federal, state and local plans and other documents affecting the regions to be considered in the development of the program guidelines and priorities (PRC 33345 (June 2006/Ongoing)

Goal III

- Add 3.3 Support integrated regional, sub regional and local planning efforts, consistent with the SNC’s mission. (On-going)

Goal IV

- Change from “Balanced Portfolio” to “Balanced Program”

Goal V

- Change from “Funding” to “Identify Funding Needs”

Program Goals (p. 23)

Goal 1

- Clarify non-traditional activities in Action 1.1
- Addition of actions:
 - 1.5 Identify and promote opportunities to enhance recreational and tourism activities in the non-peak and “shoulder” seasons.
 - 1.6 Provide opportunities on public lands through increased management capabilities and new trails and access.
 - 1.7 Promote opportunities on private land by supporting resource and amenity conservation and restoration projects associated with private creation of recreational use.

Goal 2

- Proposed addition at end of introduction: *“Collaborative, integrated watershed planning efforts that address the wide range of issues will be encouraged and supported.”*
- Addition of actions:
 - 2.2 Identify priority projects, partners and mechanisms that protect, conserve and restore cultural, archaeological, and historical resources.
 - 2.5 Develop a strategy to work in partnership with other governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties to identify information, assistance and resources needed to support community projects that protect, conserve, and restore these important assets.
 - 2.7 Facilitate and foster good planning and education efforts (*including those aimed particularly at students*) to protect and enhance ecosystem and watershed health, sustainable working landscapes, and economically viable communities.

Goal 3

- Addition of actions:
 - 3.3 Identify opportunities for more cohesive public and private land management, including “checkerboard” ownership patterns, by identifying and facilitating potential voluntary land exchanges.
 - 3.4 Identify incentives to private and public landowners to manage the upper watershed to increase natural water storage and groundwater recharge.

- 3.5 Facilitate local, regional, and state planning to encourage upper watershed conservation efforts that result in increased natural water storage, groundwater recharge, and habitat improvement.
- 3.6 Provide regional perspective and coordination expertise to help local planning efforts consistent with working landscape goals; assist communities in minimizing adverse impacts of public land management on private working landscapes.
- Proposed addition: *Addition of the word “voluntary” before “incentive-based” in Action 3.2 and 3.4*

Goal 4

- Clarified Action 4.2 to include multiple natural disaster planning efforts
- Addition of actions:
- 4.4 In cooperation with local governments, identify strategies to reduce the wildland-urban interface fire risk created by building structures that are within or encroach upon adjacent wildlands.
- 4.5 Provide assistance to the Region in the development and implementation of alternative, multi-benefit, natural disaster risk reduction programs such as bio-fuel creation.

Goal 5

- Addition of actions:
- 5.2 Identify and support priority projects aimed at assessing, protecting, and improving watershed health, particularly those that provide multiple benefits.
- 5.4 Provide incentives for watershed restoration projects resulting in upper watershed health, water quality improvement and water source conservation efforts.
- 5.5 Engage in cooperative efforts with agencies and other partners aimed at educating about, planning for, and monitoring the effects of climate change on the Sierra Nevada Region. As an example, investigate technology and program options for carbon sequestration.
- *Proposed addition of:*
- 5.1: *Addition of the word “voluntary” prior to “incentive-based”*
- 5.6: *Work with local governments, air quality organizations, and other stakeholders to encourage efforts to reduce risk of catastrophic fire through increased biomass energy production, thereby reducing open burning and associated negative impacts on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.*

Goal 6

- Addition of action:

6.4 Assist in growing and diversifying local economies that are compatible with the area's natural resources, through innovative investments and economic development that are regionally distinctive.