

SAVING THE SIERRA

Grassroots Solutions for Sustaining Rural Communities
A One-Hour Radio Documentary by jesikah maria ross & Catherine Stifter



SUSTAINING RURAL PLACES TOOL KIT

Brought to you by the Sierra Business Council in partnership with Saving the Sierra

Watershed Councils and Watershed Planning

In the past thirty years watershed planning has adopted a collaborative approach encouraging organizations and agencies to manage and restore the natural course of water and restore watershed function. The watershed management process has attempted to integrate stakeholder involvement with sound science and technology to improve decision-making and engage the public. Many watersheds in the United States are impaired, according to Environmental Protection Agency standards, and watershed planning is becoming that standards approach to improving water quality.

Several Watershed Councils are actively involved with planning decisions that weigh in on decisions made about local watersheds. Many councils have similar missions working to do the following:

- Manage water so there is enough for people, farms, habitat, forests, and aquatic life,
- Protect and restore waterways,
- Reduce toxic threats,
- Promote stewardship,
- Sustain critical habitats through environmental mitigation that works,
- Face the challenge of climate change.

Find out what watershed you live in by using the Environmental Protection Agencies “Surf Your Watershed” guide and find citizen based groups that are active in your watershed:

cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm

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Pioneering and demonstrating innovative projects and approaches that foster community vitality, environmental quality, economic prosperity, and social justice in the Sierra Nevada.

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If you're looking for watershed planning tools many organizations have created toolkits or guides to provide assistance. The Sierra Nevada Alliance, a membership organization serving the Sierra Nevada, dedicated to protecting and restoring the natural environment of the Sierra Nevada.

Sierra Nevada Alliance Watershed Council Toolkit

<http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/publications/watershedtk/>

Sierra Nevada Alliance Community-Based Watershed Restoration in the Sierra Nevada: A Guide to Getting Started

http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/publications/db/pics/1139942937_21253.f_pdf.pdf

Institute for Conservation Leadership

www.icl.org/

Take a live watershed training course, earn a watershed management training certificate, look up information on state watershed programs and the planning process at the Environmental Protection Agency's Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds pages.

www.epa.gov/owow/

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