

Breakout 6 [Policy Track] – Alternative Investment Platforms for Watershed Management | 11:15am – 12:30pm

Moderator: Kerri Timmer

Kerri is a communications and management specialist with 25 years of experience in the fields of business communications, land and water conservation, community relations and nonprofit management and capacity building. Prior to joining the SNC in April 2007, Kerri operated her own consulting practice, cultivating relationships with watershed organizations, land trusts and other community groups both within and outside the Sierra. Before moving to the Sierra in 1993, Kerri spent six years as account executive and creative director with a community and government relations firm in San Francisco. Kerri holds a B.A. in English Literature from San Francisco State University and is finishing a certificate program in Land Use and Natural Resources through UC Davis Extension. Kerri has also authored a number of publications addressing land and water conservation and community sustainability issues in the Sierra Nevada.

Panelists: Chris Alford, Kim Carr, Kathy Hardy, Vance Russell

Chris Alford is the Associate Director of California Conservation at American Rivers and is the program manager for American Rivers' coastal and Sierra water supply and instream flow protection programs. She works to protect instream flows to increase water supply reliability, improve water quality, and provide critical aquatic habitat. She works on state level instream flow policy and water law issues as well as individual water right transfers and instream flow enhancement projects.

Kim Carr has worked on environmental and sustainability issues for over 20 years, with the last 12 focusing on the Sierra Nevada. Kim has been with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the last 5 years and currently serves as the Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator. In this capacity, she is coordinating the Sierra Nevada Forest and Communities Initiative, which provides support to forest management collaboratives locally and regionally to reduce wildfire risk, restore and protect watershed health, establish local uses for the forest woody biomass and create local jobs. Kim also leads the Conservancy's Ecosystem Services program area. The primary focus is developing investment strategies in Sierra watersheds to diversify and increase restoration funding. She holds an MA in Natural Resource Planning from the University of British Columbia and a Bachelor in Business Administration. Before moving to the Sierra, Kim worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington D.C.

Kathy Hardy is the Forest Supervisor for the Eldorado National Forest, located in Placerville, California. She has worked for the Forest Service for almost 30 years in a variety of job duties and locations, including California, Colorado, Idaho and Wyoming. She served as a District Ranger in Leadville, Colorado and in Placerville, California. More recent jobs include Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Stanislaus National Forest, located in Sonora; and the Central California District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management, located in Sacramento. She has a BA in anthropology from the University of Virginia, and worked for about 15 years as an archaeologist for the National Park Service and for the US Forest Service.

Vance Russell is the California Director of Programs for the National Forest Foundation (NFF) where he manages, leads and funds community forestry projects throughout the state. Prior to joining NFF, he was director of Audubon California's Landowner Stewardship Program which works with farmers and ranchers throughout California to restore habitat in a manner compatible with existing agricultural operations. He has more than 20 years of experience working in agriculture and natural resources management. Vance is one of the founding members of the Wild Farm Alliance, which promotes agriculture that helps to protect and restore wild nature, and currently serves on the organization's board of directors. He also co-authored *Wild Harvest: Farming for Wildlife and Profitability*, which details the importance of conservation incentives for landowners and Maximum Yield. Vance received his M.S. degree in Forest Science and Natural Resources Management from Cornell University in 1996 and B.A. in Biology from the College of Wooster in 1987.