

PARTICIPANTS

Angela Avery leads the Sierra Nevada Conservancy by providing strategic direction and oversight to the agency's region-wide staff. As executive officer, she is committed to restoring the health and resilience of the Sierra Nevada region. She is working with the conservancy's partners to implement the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Plan, with the goal of ensuring that the region thrives and continues to provide California with clean air, clean water, recreational opportunities, and spiritual respite.

Van Butsic is an associate cooperative extension specialist and adjunct professor at the Department of Environmental Science Policy and Management at the University of California, Berkeley, where he conducts research on land use, fire, and forest policy. His research seeks to understand how environmental policy impacts individual decision making, communities, and natural environments. He is also an adjunct fellow at the PPIC Water Policy Center. He holds a PhD in forestry and an MS in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and a BA in economics from Reed College.

Henry McCann is a research associate at the PPIC Water Policy Center, where he manages research projects and provides core research support. His recent projects have focused on water information and accounting systems, urban drought resilience, and headwater forest management. He previously managed research projects within the Smart Water Systems initiative at the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation. He holds an MA in urban and regional planning from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a BA in geography from the University of Chicago.

Carmen Tubbesing is a PhD candidate at the University of California, Berkeley. She studies the causes, consequences, and mitigation of severe disturbances in Sierra Nevada forests, including wildfire and tree die-off. Her recent research has focused on the efficacy of fuel treatments to reduce wildfire severity and promote forest recovery; the feasibility of woody biomass electricity generation using dead wood from drought-induced forest die-off; and how shrub and tree species interact in post-fire environments. She is currently modeling forest recovery in the decades after severe wildfire. She holds a BS in biology from Brown University.

Willie Whittlesey is the assistant general manager of the Yuba Water Agency (YWA). He assists with all aspects of YWA's operations and management including flood control, hydropower operations, energy sales, FERC relicensing, watershed management, water rights and water supply. YWA provides water to eight irrigation districts that convey water to farmers and ranchers in Yuba County, and collaborates with local, state, and federal agencies to improve flood protection. YWA also generates an average of 1.4 million MWhs of hydropower per year. He holds a BS in forestry from Humboldt State University.