

SIERRA STAR

Group concerned with health of the Sierra Nevada to hold meeting

August 20, 2013, Oakhurst

Sustainable Forests and Communities Collaborative — a diverse group from throughout Madera, Mariposa, Fresno and Tulare Counties with a common interest in the ecological, economic and cultural health of the Sierra Nevada — is available for residents, agencies and organizations to join.

The group holds quarterly meetings, with the next planned for 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 29, at the Oakhurst Public Library, 49044 Civic Circle Drive. Participation is free.

The mission of the collaborative is to initiate, encourage and support efforts that promote a healthy sociological system of forests, watersheds and economies in the communities of the South Central Sierra through a transparent, collaborative and mutually supportive process. .

"We are facing so many environmental, economic and social challenges in the Sierra that it can be hard to know where to most effectively invest your time," said Mandy Vance, a Sierra Nevada Conservancy representative in the collaborative. "The Sustainable Forests and Communities Collaborative's balanced mission, diverse, passionate and knowledgeable members and commitment to action make this group the ideal place to develop innovative projects."

Group objectives include: fuel reduction and forest restoration; local economic and environmental sustainability; enhancements to the watershed to protect local users and benefit downstream users; protection of cultural, historical and archaeological resources; promoting environmental stewardship and awareness; renewable energy production and ongoing environmental assessment.

Details: Sierra Resource Conservation District, Brittany Dyer, (559) 877-8663