**Amador Calaveras Consensus Group – Planning Meeting and Field Trip**

**January 31, 2014 / Amador Ranger District Office, Pioneer**

**(action items highlighted in yellow)**

ATTENDEES: Rick Hopson, USFS; Robyn Woods, USFS; Cathy Koos Breazeal, AFSC; Bob Carroll, USFS; Pat McGreevy, Calaveras Parks and Rec Commission; Jeff Griffin, USFS; Chuck Loffland, USFS; John Hofmann, Amador County; Matt Waverly, SPI; John Heissenbuttel, HNRC; Marc Young, USFS; Stanley Backlund, Trout Unlimited; John Sikora, Trout Unlimited.

Due to weather conditions, the field trip portion of the meeting was cancelled.

1. Power Fire Reforestation EIS Update, Rick Hopson:

* Proposed Action is still being developed.
* FS direction is to return to a fire resilient forest.
* Some plantations that have had handwork and/or interplanting are failing.
* Anticipated listing of Sierra Nevada yellow legged frog (YLF) expected; FS seeks “no effect on projects”.
* Objections were discussed including cumulative effects, with alternatives suggested such as small livestock grazing and reduced herbicide. FS botanists favor herbicides such as triclopir to protect grasses, with stream buffers in YLF areas. Consultation costs are significant. John Sikora would like more specifics in the Proposed Action and guidelines established. Rick recommends a letter requesting.
* John Hofmann asked for an educational presentation on how units are selected. John Heissenbuttel asks for education on Best Management Practices and standards for water.
* Livestock grazing, handwork, herbicide can all be viewed as tools in the toolkit; use dependent on situation.
* Tribes will be notified when the proposed action is ready; some feedback on cultural sites has already been received.
* Rick stated he is open to discussing monitoring and it could be brought in as an alternative action. He will add monitoring data to the February monitoring workshop agenda.
* Monitoring capabilities were discussed. Several members suggested ACCG develop a monitoring project. Rick stated monitoring funding is available through the CFLR or possibly the Power Fire payment. John Sikora said Trout Unlimited can write a position paper, and may be able to put in some funds, as well.

1. Foster Firs, Marc Young:

* Currently addressing commercial thinning area treatments with respect to owls. He should have a proposed action ready to present to ACCG within a month.
* Meadows, cows, and dispersed camping are presently issues. They are considering a variable width buffer on the meadow; some hand treatment in the mechanical exclusion area; blocking off vehicular access in the campground area, but still allow walk-in camping; potentially providing a small parking area.
* John Heissenbuttel & John Hofmann stated they opposes closing off the campground and support closing the steep road 9N14D.
* Areas discussed: Anderson Ridge Road, Podesta Meadow, Aspen Meadow, Iron Mountain, Mormon Immigrant Trail, road to Leek Springs Lookout.
* System/non-system roads were discussed. Trout Unlimited asks for a list of roads and actions proposed, and monitoring.
* 1200 – 1300 acres is proposed for commercial harvest with an estimated yield of 5-7 million board feet; stewardship contract; late 2015 sales target.

1. Scottiago, Marc Young:

* Map reviewed. Discussed/identified Slug Gulch Fire, 1972; Sopiago Creek Road; Gold Note OHV system northwest of Pipi/5 Corners; assets/infrastructure/dwellings at Sopiago Springs Resort, Fine, and several other homes. Where was Berry’s Sawmill & town?
* John Hofmann recommended riparian management consideration.
* GTR-220 recommends clumps.
* Proposed project timeframe 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.