**ROUGH MEETING NOTES**

**February 19, 2014 – 9:30am – 12:00pm**

**Location:** West Point Veterans Hall, Hwy 26 x Pine Street, West Point, CA

**Meeting Facilitator:** Peter Zaragoza

action items in yellow

| **No.** | **Agenda Item** |
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| **I.** | **Call To Order** members reminded to sign the attendance roster and please clean or remove dirty footwear prior to entering the building. We are permitted to meet here at no cost, but there was dirt left behind at the November and January meetings and a complaint filed. |
| **II.** | **Participants Introduction** |
| **III.** | **Modifications and/or Approval of Agenda [**some presentations were rearranged for the convenience of the speakers] |
| **IV.** | **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes tentative approval** |
| **V.** | **Presentation – Becky Estes, Province Ecologist, Eldorado National Forest** Becky gave a very informative presentation on red fir ecology and the natural range of variability. There is a project 82% loss of red fir forests. She is willing to lead an effort to write a GTR-type document for red firs. The full Power Point presentation will be available on ACCGs web blog. NVR document link found here:  [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/plants-animals/?cid=stelprdb5434436](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/plants-animals/?cid=stelprdb5434436) |
| **VI.** | **Status of Previous Action Items**   1. Air District officer contacts – Cathy - done 2. Research ad hoc prescribed fire committee results – C Koos Breazeal and K Evatt - in progress; met with Fred Velasquez regarding native fire practitioners and garnered active practitioner contacts from Northern California. 3. Biomass resourcing meeting – held 2/17; follow up work continues 4. John Hofmann – Chris Trott has assigned someone from Buena Vista biomass plant 5. Insurance for logging-type operations – J Heissenbuttel – has contacted Associated California Loggers; they do not offer group or other insurance; gave referrals. |
| **VII** | **ACCG Work Groups** |
|  | 1. **Admin Work Group** – C Koos Breazeal 2. Time reporting REMINDER – if you host an ACCG meeting, it is your responsibility to track attendees and time and get to C Koos Breazeal 3. Ad hoc work group roles meeting report – with the exception of the finance work group, the other WGs (Admin, Planning, Contractors) are functioning as 2010 MOA intent.   We find a need for a formal monitoring group (Dinkey hired a full time monitoring person); K Evatt/C Koos Breazeal will be talking to UC Davis and TNC. Possibility to use Argonaut HS students for some of the monitoring.  Re Finance Work Group – we ask each signatory member to look within their organizations for people who have skills in fundraising, collecting and assisting with fiscal reporting (right now mainly Cornerstone), assist with a long-term effort to identify and/or develop metrics and best practices for valuing, accounting for and financing sustainability and equilibrium between the local natural environment, communities and economies.  Another possible resource would be SCORE; engaging EBMUD; and the local tribal entities.   1. Facilitator assignments S McMorris – March; T McClung - April; K Young - May 2. Educational element ideas – send your ideas to C Koos Breazeal |
|  | **B. Planning Work Group –** K Young  1. 2/24-27 monitoring workshop --  2. Final Cornerstone Report -- submitted November. Kudos from Washington and R5; no edits requested. PDF will go on blog soon.  3. 3/12 planning group meeting at Calaveras Ranger District |
|  | **C. Finance Work Group – open**  1. Recruiting for this group |
|  | **D. Operations Work Group –** J Heissenbuttel  1. Proposal to appoint co-chair – recommend Rick Hopson. Group concurred.   1. Associated California Loggers, Eldorado Motherlode Chapter meeting report 2. Next Operations meeting tentatively 3/13, location TBD |
| **VII.** | **Presentation: Lee Hazeltine, Small Livestock Grazing Contractor**  Lee is from Woodland, CA and was originally a herbicide applicator. Here in the west, brush is viewed as garbage to get rid of, rather than food source for stock. Sun City in Lincoln was first his foray into grazing due to impediments to burning and mechanical. $300/acre was cost. Up to 5000 acres in Placer county grazed now. Up against the houses. Gross cost now - $50/acre. In 2012, he had 14,000 animals grazing in 13 different areas. Saved Whitney Ranch on their CALFIRE air tanker funding pool because he grazed it down to 6 inches or less. Currently grazing on old Parker Whitney ranch that ran sheep originally. Works with SPI as well. If he is getting into the woods, can’t fool around with 20 acres due to costs: 5000 acre square of fence x $4/foot, $250,000 to fence. With a larger area and a longer term agreement, costs can cut down to $2/acre. Grazing project for PGE in Auburn – PGE could be a leader. Can integrate discussions occurring now in R5 regarding burning.  Questions from the group:  -What types of brush are suitable? Response: Good right after burn; if you need to affect the herbivory, tan oaks and manzanita have alkaloids making their bitter. “Bag and bomb” with bags over small trees and then aerially spray. Some brush does come back. Good forages like ceanothus can be encouraged. There are ways you can make it so that ruminants can consume alkaloids so they don’t lose condition. Sheep/goats combination; can add cattle. He has been able to successfully treat 10-foot tall post-fire brush – had grazing along with hand lopping piles for goats. Go for the low hanging fruit first.  -Rim Fire (question by Air District) – is now the time to go in? Response: Yes. There is already a cow/calf lease on a lot of the private land.  -Should we do treatment then open up to grazing after? Response: Talbot sheep Company has been grazing around Truckee and Virginia City for many, many years. They herd “old school” on public land with driving.  – How do you manage over-grazing? Response: that is bad management. He works closely with FS by GPS and site inspections and keeps them moving constantly.  – If you do prescribed fire first, then graze, (when) would you come back with prescribed fire? Response: Either burn less or burn same amount and open up more.  -Do stock eat seedlings too? Response: They can use products to keep them on or off particular trees or brush.  -Does grazing introduce invasive species and e coli? Response: They dry lot the animals for 48 hours and feed seed-free hay to push out seeds. Identify what you want and fill up your system with that, you will have little of what you don’t want. Monitoring is critical.  Field trip Offer: he will be moving into Placer county in 2 weeks. 530-681-0290 email [hazeltines@aol.com](mailto:hazeltines@aol.com) put subject in line – “West Point Grazing” ACTION – follow up C Koos Breazeal |
| **VIII.** | **Additional Discussion Items 50 min** |
|  | 1. Bill Haigh – BLM projects update   SNC application submitted for Phase 2 Lily Gap; may be reviewed at their June meeting - $180K. Smaller projects – due to sequester he has not enough money to hire a forester. Commercial rafting study at Electra stymied by weather – maybe 2015. First tire amnesty program held in Nevada County last year – several thousand tires turn in. Probably do again next year and broaden program. Trash cleanup – trying to keep up – cost $70,000 at Tiger Creek from Cal EPA. Outside Groveland – 18 dump trucks from one site, including a catamaran in the woods. Rangers are working trouble spots – Spruce Gulch area gated and cleaned out.   1. John Hofmann - Avoided cost analysis   Wrapping up. Models to see investment in certain areas to reduce wildfire and how it affects. Challenge is attaching names to participants. Comments made; collective process. Can we put our ACCG name to since John represented ACCG. Katherine – she and Reuben have reviewed; Foothill Conservancy is waiting on edits, but currently inclined that they generally support the findings. Executive summary in progress. Consensus to have John Hofmann sign for ACCG.   1. Steve Wilensky/Tad Mason – Wilseyville update   Tad Mason, forester CEO of TSS consultants in Rancho Cordova, spoke for Steve. Feasibility study for CHIPS in 2012 multiproduct value added yard in Wilseyville. Grant issues to CHIPS based on that study. He was retained to conduct design engineering to bring to next phase. Biomass plant, greenhouse for native plants, etc; business plan to allow CHIPS to bid renewable energy tariff plan at 4th quarter this year. Steering committee formed (A Jacobsen, A Fisher, S Wilensky; J Hofmann) meet every two weeks to direct TSS; moving forward rapidly. New legislation, State of CA SB1122, mandates utilities like PG&E, So Cal Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric must procure certain amount of energy as bioenergy; allocate part of 50 mw across state scaled to 3 mw or less. Tad will send a report for the blog. Key benchmarks need to be met – goal to CHIPS to meet all 9 benchmarks. Bank will not finance w/o solid feedstock assessment and procurement plan. Would like screen w/in next 30 days.   1. Biomass Meeting review – Katherine Evatt.   Overarching principles:   * For saw logs: Only otherwise unmerchantable saw logs considered sustainable for biomass * Projects should leave adequate viable habitat for plants and wildlife (e.g. structural elements, wildlife trees); protect important watershed features (e.g. soils, streams, riparian areas); and protect key cultural resources * Projects should be consistent with adopted ACCG principles * Trees damaged by natural disasters (fire, wind, volcanoes, etc) * WUI fuel reduction treatments with appropriate management plans * Nontoxic, untreated products from construction and industrial wood waste * Any material that would otherwise be open-burned in an ACCG-approved project. * Projects that are intended to restore the forest to a more-resilient structure consistent with the normal range of variability found in similar forest types where fire is not excluded. * Plantation thinning to increase stand diversity over time and enhance wildlife habitat or other ecological objectives. |
| **IX.** | **Action Items Review**   * Grazing field trip w/L Hazeltine (C Koos Breazeal) * Report – Tad Mason (submit for blog) * Red Fir Power Point (B Estes) |
| **X.** | **ACCG Partner Reports** |
|  | **T McClung** – Stanislaus will use mailing list for operators and invited to timber sales meeting in Sonora. Lot of Rim Fire work. Can the Operations WG get the list to her office? Possibly two meetings – one in the evening in Angels if there is interest.  **Rick** – Eldorado meeting will be in May with field trip (Georgetown ranger district). Put on blog.  **Amy** – NRCS has drought program deadline 3/3; mostly rangeland. |
|  | **Adjourn – Next meeting in Amador County, March 19, GSA Building** |