**ACCG Planning Work Group – March 11, 2015**

**Meeting Notes**

**ATTENDEES**: Julia Stephens (JS); John Buckley (JB); John Hofmann (JH); Teresa McClung (TM); Kendal Young (KY); Cathy Koos Breazeal (CKB); Marti Crain (MC); Gwen Starrett (GS); Pat McGreevy (PM); Casey Jardine (CJ); Gordon Long (GL); Merita Calloway (MC); Reuben Childress (RC); Kim Grissom (KG)

Addition to agenda: JB – meeting with SNC

1. **Over-the-Snow Vehicle EIS** – TM and CJ – prompted by lawsuit requirement to do NEPA of where to allow. Stan and Eldorado – Stan – primarily Hwy 4. Draft Proposed Action currently. 4 public meetings. Looking for tweaks prior to submission to federal record. Goal to maintain current activity and address any T&E issues that may come in future to minimize impact to natural resources and protect safety of users. Designation of roads and trails. Focusing on 5000 feet and above. Will allow at lower elevations (i.e. Arnold) if snow depth sufficient.

CJ -Questionable if can groom Hwy 4 since state hwy. Jurisdiction likely once Caltrans closes gate(s). Groom Hwy from Alpine Lake up to Highlands and to the pass; and when snow they do Spicer/Union/Utica. Highland Lakes Road is a county road, but have tacit permission to Use state OHV funds; snow needs to be at least 18 inches to begin grooming and maintain 12 inches. Yosemite Toad is on backside of Highland Lakes; to protect, that area will be monitored at an unspecified frequency.

JB – issue not so much Yosemite toad but other species such as marten (?) and for quiet recreation – try for balance. Controversy at south end of Pacific Valley where riders are trespassing into out-of-bounds area to ride in a bowl and into the wilderness.

CJ - Pacific valley still allows snowmobiling in narrow corridor. Adjacent areas are determined to be in near natural condition, so protect those conditions. Plan to be signed.

TM – maps will be a product of this action.

CJ – Stan Meadow – only groom 1 mile of loop at 24” plus; below 24” stop grooming or when vegetation visible.

JS – fence around YLF habitat in that meadow – snowmobilers concern catching fence; however the YLF are heavily impacted by livestock.

CJ – Silver Tip – snowpark; stream crossing entering Bear Valley – install bridge; address safety issues on hairpin turn.

JB – Round Valley – parallel road for snowmobiling and separate for quiet recreation. Is there anything designated for simple snow play?

CJ – no changes at Spicer: 18” to groom, <12” no groom. Public meetings/open house: Sonora today, Friday RD; Thus Bear Valley Library 5-8.

JH – can we attract businesses that sell/repair snow machines – nothing in Amador anymore, only Bear Valley.

TM – Notice of Intent April 3, 30 day comment period; can ACCG put together a letter of comment at that time. JH – Eldorado scoping is out now and due 4/6.

KY – next planning meeting is during the open comment period so we can discuss then.

1. **Scott Stephens presentation REVIEW**

JH – 19 trees/acre and few at 40”dbh and 20-30% canopy cover – in 1911.

JB – contradictory information reflects lots of 40+ mostly pines with much open around them found. 300/acre replanting proposals in Rim footprint. Maybe we need more aggressive thinning/management.

1. **PM – Meadow Discussion** – rough calculations - if all meadows restored in Moke watershed, we could get the equivalent of Lower Bear Reservoir. Can we train citizen scientists?

JB – real opportunity to get in experts; possible immediate win/win would be to provide support to IRWMP and perhaps do an initial identification of 10 meadows each forest – more manageable.

JH – areas previously meadows, but no longer, i.e. Mirror Lake in Yosemite.

RC – our group should identify meadows for study. References IRWMP study; cost estimate to compile data, ground truth, find uncatalogued meadows; having a prioritization list as a tool for us and having more professional planning can align for future funding. IRWMP grant app in progress.

ACTION – Pat come to Hathaway Pines and meet with Zack and start with Chuck in Amador.

GL – wildlife grant round – streamlined process – aimed at large game animals like bear or deer.

1. **GREENHOUSE GAS APPLICATIONS – PM**

PM - His focus on Wilseyville power plant to acquire forest waste from standing to cutting to chipping to transport and generate power at Wilseyville. Carbon accounting is an issue.

CKB – related issues;

PM – SNC has the MACA report which appears to calculate the carbon for projects that may be in the report.

JB – involved with a biomass start up in the North Fork area; challenge 4-8 truckloads per day needed for source. He has an RPF who has done his own calculations and already put forward. Chris Trott is on his YSS board.

RC – a number of foresters attended the MACA

Possible Resources - Philip Bowden – Fuels Manager – Forest Service, Region 5; Chris Trott; Tad Mason;

JB – met with Randy Moore, Barney Gant, Jim Branham last week – SNC has a new watershed improvement program. NFF is putting forward money and other pots of money. Recommend getting a person funded to look at potential grants.

KY – we need to restart on our financial work group

JH – we have a lot of money from CFLR that we aren’t using; we are running out of ground for various reasons.

TM – could start up a master agreement; works with CHIPS – could be expanded.

1. **Moore Creek Campground – KY**

CJ – forest treatment, 7 miles of MCCT, fire breaks, OHV illegal use, arch site degradation; do on own without Amador Ranger district; fix campgrounds;

TM – resource damage, sanitation, OHV issues, fuel reduction – expansion of original proposal scope. Be efficient with project. Road improvement to get an engine in to Level 2 or 3.