**ACCG Planning Group – 5/14/14 – 09:30 – noon, Jackson**

**ATTENDEES** – Robert Smith, Pat McGreevy, Gary Slade, Amy Rocha, Kendal Young, John Hofmann, Cathy Koos Breazeal, Chuck Loffland, Reuben Childress; Miranda Gavalis (FS Amador Ranger District Archeologist)

1. Intro and Review Agenda. Intent of meeting is to develop strategies for Power and West Calaveras Thin; review monitoring.
2. Response to FS Projects

* NEPA Triangle Presentation– defined “issue as an effect on physical/biological/socio-economic resource. An “issue” is not an “activity.” New EIS action for Power fire released, 45 day comment period (from April 30)on proposed action. FS is looking for ACCG comment. West Calaveras Thin – EA ready to submit public on Monday 5/19 for 30 day comment period. Relevant issues are extent of geographic distribution, duration of effects, or intensity of interest or resource conflicts. No set criteria – comment language is important. Need to show negative impact on objection.

Show what you support and what you don’t support and back up with solid reasons. Two step process – 45 days comment period; then another 45-90 days for FS response.

218 Pre-Decisional Administrative Review - Objection process (36 CFR 218

NEPA Triangle - Non-HFRA projects, Subpart A, B document in DN/FONSI or ROD – we are on the right side of the triangle now**. Process begins on left side** -- public/ACCG participation – location, desired/existing conditions, needs, possible activities. **Right side** – public comment, issue id, alternatives, effects, EA 30 days or EIS 45 days comment period; final EA and draft decision, objection period 45 days; objection response, 45 days; decision. **Bottom of** triangle – adjustment, evaluation, monitoring, implementation. FACA requirements stand.

* **Power Fire** ACCG Response letter to Proposed Action – develop strategy. **Public meeting** 5/15/14, 4-7 p.m. Provide comments in writing.

Comment Letter Format - 1) introduce ACCG; 2) project overview (state it is for Power Fire); 3) aspects we support (okay to bullet statements) ; 4) aspects not supported - write statement to indicate the issue and support with scientific fact. Don’t need to suggest alternatives at this point. Within alternative (broad), give list of specific methods (bucket list – ways to do business, i.e. grazing, fire, adaptive management, hand treat ; 5) thank you. (11/13/13 meeting notes reference) . Deadline to comment 6/6/14.

Reuben to begin draft for next week’s mtg. **The NOI does not reflect the recommendation for low/no herbicide that ACCG requested.** Kendal stated this was a FS oversight.

FYI - FS has found herbicide to be cheapest, most effective alternative.

* West Calaveras Thin – see handout [FS preferred is Alternative 3**] Looking for letter of support to Alternative 3.** Similar format to Power Fire letter -- what alternative we support. 30-day window, starts Monday 5/19 when advertised in Union Democrat. ACCG does not have a seat at the table; Amador County does and John Buckley does; but ACCG does not because no letter submitted. If we submit a letter now, we can get a seat. Could use Ramsey letter as template.

1. Foster Firs scoping next week, 30 day window; area closed due to snow – maybe open next week.

* Power Fire meeting tomorrow at Amador Ranger Station, 4 – 7 p.m.
* Mattley – may be additional funding, field trip 5/20
* Hemlock – scoping doc late – pushed till fall; decision august 2015
* Big meadow – defer
* MCCT – defer
* Monitoring – see handout. Take to ACCG next week with revised list for concurrence. Looking for concurrence from Planning to present to full ACCG

1. Calendar (see handout)

* Thursday May 29 – Hemlock 0900 – 1500 meet at Calaveras office
* 6/11 – Amador FS– field trip – let Rick or Chuck know desires of location. Foster probably open; Power Fire as alternate. Or alternate to Calaveras
* Monitoring – 6/13
* 6/26 – implementation – Ramsey burn and East/West Arnold Shred

1. Roundtable –

* Gary Slade – Trout Unlimited is holding a raffle to support large scale salmon habitat restoration on Hwy 80 corridor.
* BOS approved scoping to Power Fire.

1. Key elements of today’s meeting – need meeting prior to 6/6 for Power Fire. Maybe early 6/2,3, or 4 for ad hoc pl meeting. Reuben working on draft. Kendal will confirm by email for meeting.