

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group  
Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 -- 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

**Location: Veterans' Memorial Building, West Point, CA**  
**Meeting Facilitator: Steve Wilensky ♦♦♦ Minutes: Jill Micheau**

Item Number	Agenda Item
1	Call to order (Steve Wilensky)
2	Participants introductions (All)
3	Modification and/or approval of agenda (All)
4	Approval of October minutes (all) – <i>Note: Katherine Evatt noted several errors in the October minutes. She will make edits and send to Jill; the group agreed to approve the minutes with Katherine's changes.</i>
<b>Presentations and Business</b>	
5	<p><b>Presentation by Eric Kleinfelter</b> <b><i>Utilizing Fecal DNA to Estimate Deer Abundance in the North Central Region of California</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective: To use deer fecal (pellets) DNA and home range data from deer fitted with GPS radio collars, to estimate abundance of 14 deer herds in the North Central Region of California. Field work started in 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2021.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Socio-Economic monitoring data – Steve Wilensky</b></p> <p>This is a topic that frequently makes people yawn, but we have an obligation under our CFLRA contract to do this monitoring as part of our “triple bottom line.” What impact have we had on local communities? We should be having a positive impact on local social and economic metrics. Employment statistics, literacy, incarceration, etc. How do we measure these things? Well-developed models do exist. At issue is how to monitor and define data within our specific area? Does that data mesh with other datasets? No agency is doing this for our geographic plot. We must define our area and make the data synch to existing statistics. Let agencies do this, but figure out how to excise data for our region. How can we judge impact of what we do with regard to this? Has crime reduced because our workers are too tired to rob banks after a long day working in the field? Sierra Institute, Chico State and others are doing this type of data gathering. A large report was done for the Dinkley Collaborative with Sierra Institute.</p> <p>The Monitoring Working Group has been agonizing over this for some time. We seem to have a few options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We requested a few proposals; got responses back from Sierra Institute, Portland, and Chico. Maybe our proposal required too robust and polished a product – the quoted cost was prohibitive.</li> <li>We could bring in someone to consult/work with us to develop a system that would use existing data and our internal process nexus, then use that after the consultants are gone. Would take about a year, then we'd do it from then on. Maybe an agency would contract a person to us? Could the Forest Service provide this expertise?</li> <li>A 3<sup>rd</sup> option would be to hire someone like Mary Sketch (former ACCG). We would post the position to create a system and meld local data with existing statistics.</li> </ul> <p>Steve expressed a bias against Chico... their work was so generic as to be useless. Results were purely academic... would prefer that we do this internally.</p> <p>Where should we go with this? Monitoring group would then do it before CFLRA ends (hopefully!).</p> <p><b>Evatt:</b> Our region has social scientists with this expertise; could FS bring in their experts to set up system using CFLR funds?</p> <p><b>Cablayan:</b> <i>I will look into it.</i></p>

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	<p><b>Wilensky:</b> those people may be assigned to other activities. We may not get the dedication we need.</p> <p><b>Griffith:</b> It can be hard to deal with diverse data sets. Example: ABC checked local census data on median household income, but it was greatly inflated. Cannot rely on national data for small communities.</p> <p><b>Wilensky:</b> What statistics could we use from local and county agencies? Sheriff's Departments, etc.? The problem is getting at the nexus between our activities and the statistics. Sierra Institute did great job, but the product was delivered, met compliance requirements -- little understood and not followed up on.</p> <p><b>Aragon:</b> Need an individual who could integrate with the group to get and pull data specific to us.</p> <p><b>Evatt:</b> We need to learn how to find the right data sets. Must be relevant to us. We need more data on money spent locally by local contractors. Could we make part of CFLRA work contracts? This has been tried -- got nowhere with that. Need a user friendly approach.</p> <p><b>Kuiken:</b> will ask the region. Capacity is likely an issue... we have very few social scientists in the agency, and most being used on forest plan revisions. <i>Will get back to us on this soon.</i></p> <p><b>Wilensky:</b> What is possible? It would be great to know how many hours we could get, within what regions, and what tasks they could do for us. Knowing what resources are available would help us to know what we need to create a workable system.</p> <p>The bid from Sierra Institute bid was way too high. We need to clarify exactly what we are asking for in order to get a bid that incorporates any resources we bring to the table. SI could assign us a person or we could develop an organizational relationship.</p> <p><b>Final Q:</b> The CFLRA reporting requirement is for FS land; our work is often done on other lands... BLM, private, Alpine County, etc. Do we want to take all into account, or do we want to limit to FS lands?</p> <p><b>Loffland:</b> We don't want to hitch our wagon to a pony headed for a cliff (CFLRA funding sunset). Bigger picture better, as would be useful beyond CFLRA. We need to understand what FS resources we can access, then go to SI with a clear RFP that would complete the task.</p> <p><b>Pickard:</b> Can we ask all ACCG contractors to provide info?</p> <p><b>Evatt:</b> Have been asking unsuccessfully for many years...</p> <p><b>Pickard:</b> Pumpkin Hollow project has that data – appears in the UMRWA report.</p> <p><b>Wilensky:</b> We need direction from this group so we can direct proposals.</p> <p><b>Griffith:</b> What about using an Americorp Volunteer??? Like Mary Sketch? She was a Sierra Fellow.</p> <p><b>GROUP CONSENSUS:</b> The group agreed that the monitoring WG can ask the Sierra Institute for their best recommendation. It was suggested that we also ask the Sierra Business Council; also Dr. Amy Horn, an SBC economist who has done this type of study; and other universities, i.e., Merced, Davis, Davis department of Community Development, etc.</p> <p><b>Wilensky:</b> <i>Next meeting will bring framework of proposal with dollar match. Last was \$120K for all work.</i></p>
7	<p><b>Bear Allotment EA – Robin Wall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment period closes 11/27</li> <li>• Does ACCG want to provide comments?</li> <li>• Cover letter attached; includes link to proposed action</li> <li>• Have received many comments so far; still 2 weeks before it closes. <i>Planning Group decided NOT to comment. Any differences aside from no action? Any orgs can still respond. No objections.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Updates</b>	
8	<p><b>Admin Work Group update – John Heisenbuttel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urgent!!! The Admin Work Group is losing John H. Need someone to replace him and as co-chair of Operations WG.</li> </ul> <p><i>Asked if ABC could provide someone; they will consider. Need someone to administer Micheau</i></p>

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	<p><i>contract. Commitment is only a few hours a month; one telecom to establish agenda for general meetings and discuss any admin issue that arise. Anyone interested in working with this group, please call John or Jill.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need someone to replace Jan Bray on Media team (with Steve and Kathryn)... please consider joining. Need to add one person for diversity. Coming up with more frequency... need to work more closely with FS publication group. Need meeting with PIOs. Maybe I should set that up? Jill will do this.</li> </ul> <p><i>Jill Micheau volunteered to be on media team; also, will set up teleconference with media team and FS PIOs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several of our key members are over committed and would like to be relieved of some ACCG roles. Rick Hopson is the Operations WG Cochair with Heisenbuttel – it is good to job-share on this position. <i>If interested, please contact Rick or John.</i></li> <li>• Strategic planning update (Micheau): last meeting was spent discussing how we can better our communications with members; improve meetings; increase networking.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Planning Work Group update – Robin Wall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talked about Bear EA – ACCG will not submit comments.</li> <li>• The November 22nd Planning Meeting is cancelled (it's the day before Thanksgiving feasts). The next Planning Meeting will be on January 24, 2018.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Conversation/email discussion will continue until the next meeting in January with the Planning Work Group on topics submitted by the group, including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onion Valley Meadows</li> <li>• Scottiago Hazard Tree</li> <li>• Road maintenance in general (submitted by Bray):</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Many dollars and efforts went into the ENF transportation system and it's on a steep decline of disrepair. I drive various forest roads regularly and see vegetative encroachment that is tearing up the road surface and creating hazards for all motorists and recreationists, and many untended roads that deliver sediment into our watercourses. The various-surface roads are all in this concern category.</p> <p>I'd like to discuss funding options and logistical solutions to the problem. I understand it's a Forest-wide issue (and Region/Washington due to budgets) so if others want to be invited to the discussion, all the better.</p> </li></ul>
10	<p><b>Monitoring Work Group update – Robin Wall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 8<sup>th</sup> Symposium update:</li> <li>• Kudos and congratulations for those that pulled together this great event. Well attended by a diverse group. Great boost to our reputation. Well-designed day; Very informative construct. Great networking opportunities. Especially liked the discussion sessions after each block of presentations when all presenters were available at the front of the room for questions and comments.</li> <li>• <i>Micheau to follow up with attendees to invite them to become ACCG members.</i></li> </ul>
11	<p><b>Agency/organization updates (round table)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Evatt, Foothill Conservancy:</b> FC is doing a survey of the Mokulumne River; have some great photos, surveyed from <span style="background-color: yellow;">????</span> to Middle Bar. Results available by end of year; <i>Micheau to get info from her for web.</i></li> <li>• <b>Swartz, EBMUD:</b> Have been counting salmon... count is considerably greater than last year.</li> <li>• <b>Wilensky:</b> Note that we have an Amador County Supervisor (Frank Axe) here today: Welcome!</li> <li>• <b>Wall, USFS:</b> Working on the CFLR FY17 annual report... have asked many of you for information, still need from non-respondents. Anything you want to highlight in report... biomass plant; CHIPS, TREX; 1<sup>st</sup> draft needs to be complete by Thanksgiving.</li> </ul>

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- **Kleinfelter, CDFW:** deer pellets... will *send Micheau a published article on his work that can be posted to the ACCG website.*
- **Pickard, Sierra Nevada Conservancy:** December 6<sup>th</sup> tour; starts in Jackson at 1PM. Will highlight Butte Fire, Railroad Flat, a BLM parcel... will finish at Wilensky's home. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Good discussions. New board members. Reception at Hotel Leger in Mokulumne Hill, 5:30-7PM. RSVP on the SNC website. Press release out soon and will be put on ACCG web. Nice to have locals explain work to new Board Members, etc. Some talks will be narrated. Post fire land use conversion. Still need donations. Rain plan: come here (Vets Hall in West Point)... get presentations. Board meeting is next day at Moke Hill town hall. Also, **SNC** will be updating its strategic plan soon. First meeting probably on January 10th in Sonora 9:30-12:30. *Pickard will send out email with dates, etc.*
- **Haigh, BLM:** Just went off fire restrictions. Work on Lilligap 2 just started; Southern Mokulumne EA almost complete; 15-day review after thanksgiving; BLM putting statewide hazard tree removal EA between now and end of spring; streamlining process with PG&E and counties to come in and cut dead trees; signigance is funds in Mokulumne watershed landscape level cultural/archeological surveys. Have identified 126 acres of BLM lands to survey and intend to survey all over the winter. This represents the 200 feet on bordering roads, etc.. Finally, Monte got a group of young foresters from Yale; Yale is sending 4-6 more students over the winter to poke around and see Lilligap. **Evatt:** are you doing a powerline NEPA doc statewide? **Haigh:** That's the hazard tree removal statewide process policy for near power lines and roads. *Haigh will send info to Evatt.*
- **Griffith, ABC:** ABC was treated to a great presentation from SNC and Tahoe on outdoor recreation. David showed some slides to the economic development committee. They want to get involved. Two are going to Tahoe to see what they can do. ABC will not meet in January. Their December speaker will feature a presentation by Dr. Tamzen Stringham of the University of Nevada in Reno on the management and restoration of pinyon-juniper rangelands.
- **Hintenmiller, ABC:** West Carson project: acreage reduced; work only for hand crews; all wood utilization work now on hold; any insight on common problem? What do we do when feds don't have money to do more complex archeological studies? Our first experience, first for Region 4 too... any help?
- **Kuiken, USFS:** Jason is the new Forest Supervisor for the Stanislaus National Forest. He is thrilled to be here.
- **Bray, CalAm, FS Council:** South Fork Mokulumne River implementation through Sierra Nevada Conservancy; finalizing fuel break map; will be available for next burners meeting. Will prioritize future work, etc. PG&E grant just finished with 2 contractors, ingress, egress, done, thanks to PG&E. Dr. Richard Harris noted tree mortality is rising in Amador; \$928/tree.
- **Loffland, USFS:** The Planning WG had a field trip last spring to Scottiago; road tree hazard removal; expect scoping notice within the next few weeks. Short time line.
- **Aragon, USFS:** Noted at last planning meeting to ask if we want some sort of workshop or facilitator to work on solidifying zones of agreement? He has references we could use. Taking abstract concepts and move ahead instead of churning over certain issues. That would be great. *Bring us some specifics at next meeting. Micheau: Put on admin agenda.* Stanislaus is working on forest-wide hazard tree project along roads and recreational areas; not lots of info right now. Mostly along 108 corridor; farm bill project around Arnold-Avery to tie some existing fuel break projects like Lakemont, HOA, Blue Lake Springs, etc. project fuel breaks and 3-5M board feet harvest; some mastication; treat some plantations. Improving resilience around the Arnold-Avery WUI, creating defensible space. Project brain child for purpose and need from this group's planning team. Field trip sooner the better. *Joe will send out a doodle poll*

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	<p><i>for best times.</i> Around Arnold and Avery WUI. Want to expand Butte fire break to the summit. Maybe 3K acres. Also need help with survey work, archeology and other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Robertson, USFS:</b> Reported on 6 projects within Hemlock. Thompson under contact now; Pumpkin 2 phases, masticators and GVCC also working there; Hand thinning crew postponed until next year; <span style="background-color: yellow;">????</span> phase 2 working over winter; Wood: Cabbage is 4, all laid out, applied for UMWRA grant. Last two are Fore and Black Springs; working on GIS surveys.</li> <li>• <b>Stevens, GVCC:</b> Crews at Pumpkin Hollow; also October project with Tuolumne Office of Emergency Services – chipping on private property.</li> <li>• <b>Wilensky, CHIPS:</b> Attended an amazing Amador Board of Supervisors meeting; proposal passed through Eldorado and Alpine Squaw Ridge being renamed to Hungalelti. Finished Yosemite restoration project; many miles of trails decommissioned. Took out 2 Mariposa grove parking lots; will be amazing when it reopens. Public access much improved; long walks; great headquarters and museum being restored. A parking lot became a meadow. Native crews were working this; some of their parents were raised in Yosemite. Re-entry to sacred grounds. Also did some decommissioning in Yosemite Valley. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Went through objection process now on Power Fire. Meeting is taking place right now. Will report at next meeting.</li> <li>- There will be cider at the SNC tour event!</li> <li>- CHIPS migrating to lower ground for the season. Will work year-round this year; fencing post Butte Fire; Washoe crew going into Nevada for restoration work;</li> <li>- Biomass plant: got our price from PG&amp;E. 19.972 cents. A lot! We won! Break ground on Friday to entertain investors; looks very promising; clearing ground for tub grinder and loader.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12	<p><b>Wrap up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need facilitators for 2018 meetings (<i>Pickard and Kleinfelter will do Jan and Feb</i>)</li> <li>• Next meeting January 17, 2018</li> </ul> <p><b>Location: West Point</b></p>
<b>Meeting Adjourns at Noon</b>	

**Attachments:**

- Updated October minutes for review

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2017 Meeting Schedule:

Date	Location	Facilitator	Speakers/Topics
<b>NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!!!</b>			

2018 Meeting Schedule:

Date	Location	Facilitator	Speakers/Topics
January 17	West Point	Michael Pickard, SNC	Stephanie Heller, Tahoe Meadow Restoration (confirmed)
February 21	Jackson	Eric Kleinfelter, CDFW	
March 21	West Point		
April 25	Jackson		
May 16	West Point		
June 20	Jackson		
July 18	West Point		
August 15	Jackson		
September 19	West Point		
October 17	Jackson		
November 21	West Point		