

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 17, 2017 -- 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Veterans' Memorial Building, West Point, CA

Meeting Facilitator: Michael Pickard, SNC ♦♦♦ Minutes: Jill Micheau

Attendees: Chuck Loffland, John Heissenbittel, Gerald Schwartz, Rick Hopson, Jan Bray, Becky Estes, Katherine Evatt, Steve Wilensky, Pat McGreevy, Pat Noll, Eric Kleinfelter, Heidi Beswick, Liz Gregg, Gwen Starrett, Reuben Childress, Bill Haigh, Chris Laddis, Joe Aragon, Ray Cablayan, Susan McMorris, Kent Lambert, Robin Wall, Jill Micheau, Stephanie Heller, Jon Lucas, Matt Hilden, Scott Tangenberg.

NOTE: Tasks/assignments are in RED.

Item #	Agenda Item
1	Call to order – 9:33 by <i>Michael Pickard</i>
2	Participants introductions – <i>39 attendees counted</i>
3	Modification and/or approval of agenda and November minutes – <i>Approved – request that minutes no longer identify individuals</i>
Presentations and Business	
4	<p>Presentation: <i>Stephanie Heller, USFS, Tahoe District</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Overview of Meadow Restoration Techniques Implemented by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit USFS • Additional info on this topic can be found at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lbmu/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fseprd499895
5	<p>Socio-Economic monitoring data (Wilensky)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal discussion – <i>Steve gave overview of social-economic modeling, which is a requirement of the CFLRA grant; What is the effect of investment in the post-logging era? How do we track, monitor, and make the connection back to the CFLR investment? Cause and effect must be done scientifically; who can help us do this?</i> • <i>There are several models to consider: Steve and the monitoring group looked at the work of Chico State; should we do it ourselves? Approached Sierra Institute; they have done this type of study for all the CFLRAs in the country.</i> • <i>Initial SI proposal was twice our budget, and the proposed plan did not make it easy for us to carry the work beyond their report.</i> • <i>We need to constitute a working group – should be a balanced group, including reps from agencies, companies, individuals, etc.</i> • <i>Project will take 18 months; 1st year will generate a snapshot of the current state; do we look at just CFLRA, or include ancillary impacts? Many statistics are available from a variety of agencies.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Expected Commitment: There will be at least one major gathering of everyone as part of the plan.</i> ○ <i>Sierra Institute will coordinate everything.</i>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Time commitment: Expect monthly meetings, some calls, some individual work. Mostly conference calls? Monthly meetings will be decided by monitoring group – probably face to face.</i>● <i>How will this be paid for? By a challenge agreement; ~13K matching funds from FS;</i>● <i>Shall we enter into this contract with Sierra Institute? Decision needed today – can also leverage other work done in this area by SI.</i>● <i>SI did a 100-page analysis for the Dickey CFLR group; that did not continue beyond the report.</i>● <i>Concern: SI does all SE work in region 5: SCALE, various studies... does this constitute too much inbreeding?</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>There are not that many players in the field. Others did not seem to be well connected to the Sierra.</i>● <i>What about University of Washington?</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Did not do an exhaustive search, but did the best we could with our limited resources.</i>● <i>Do we have consensus? Yes. A motion was made and seconded to pursue contract with SI.</i> <p>NEXT STEPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>FS needs to discuss with SI to arrange payments, contracts, etc. Rick will do that.</i>● <i>There will be a socio-econ sub group – different from the monitoring WG (the following people signed up: R. Childress; K. Evatt; D. Hintenmiller; S. McMorris; J. Micheau; P. Noll; M. Pickard; R. Wall; S. Wilensky.</i>● <i>Next meeting, have SI come to discuss/update – put on agenda. Jill has emailed K. Rodgers and J. Kusel at SI to request a presentation at February meeting. Note: This was not the intent. SI will not address the full group until after the kick-off meeting with the WG.</i>
6	<p>Bear River Allotment – Update (Wall) – got 8 public comments; ACCG did not comment. Objection period mid-Feb, will probably be signed Mid-April.</p>
7	<p>Last Chance Fuel Break (Lucas, McGreevy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Planning and Implementation – Map of Last Chance Mastication – Matt Hilden, Cal District</i>● <i>History: All units on map were impacted by Darby Fire in 2001. Want to do mastication, will start at bottom, work 90 acres in initial contract; contract will go out today. Karina is writing the contract – refer Qs to her.</i>● <i>Most of the treatment area is tall brush.</i>● <i>Maintenance -- Need a schedule. Considering goat grazing! Hand treating, come back 3-7 years with more mastication; next treatment may be pile and burn; cannot be reforested. Pine and oak overstory in there. Will leave, just remove manzanita, other brush. Leaves pine and oak. Leave open, not too much overstory so future fire can be treated from air and ground.</i>● <i>More valley people coming to camp 9 because of social media; perfect ladder fuel there leads directly to communities. People from the Bay are tubing in the flume. Candy Rock has more people using it than in the past. That and Camp 9 will be getting lots more use; this increases fire hazard.</i>● <i>Can fly in retardant with this plan, reaching the flames in about 10 minutes.</i>● <i>The Gulch Fire started coincident with the 911 attack, and aircraft were shut down. Could also be on another attack. But this plan gives us options.</i>● <i>Was this developed with the ACCG Planning WG? Yes, there were field trips and discussions in April 2016; Gwen, Pat. Discussed prescriptions, but other concerns: interacted with Utica ditch folks; erosion into water system;</i>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEPA-CEQA, Request for Letter of Support – Pat offers 3 concerns: Utica Ditch; NEPA process; write-up used a categorical exclusion – reports have been evaluated over 2 years; Jon will send to Pat. They have a completed NEPA study. Working with Rasmussen re ditch; will keep 15 feet away from flume because of frogs. Will notify if material gets into flume so they can install traps. • Now what? Why were we asked to do a letter? Just want endorsement; being paid for by CFLR – have had field trips, etc. Usually Planning WG would bring this to us – did in April 2016. Nothing since? It seems that our process for identifying and considering projects is broken... • This item will be put on the next Planning WG agenda so we can bring it to the February meeting. Need to review CE; Reuben will review the project and make suggestions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can we use this as a process refresh to keep this going? Can we give it a thumbs up today? We need to get the contract moving along, as it will be awarded in May or June, so let's put it in the queue; Planning WG who attended is supportive of everything in this project. Will discuss at next Planning meeting; Contract needs to go by end of January. Can be modified later if necessary. Discuss at January 24th planning meeting, bring back to full group in February. FS will give docs to planning WG so they can be reviewed and brought back to the full group for consideration. Can that meeting be in Calaveras? YES, January 24th at Calaveras (Hathaway Pines). • McGreevey mapped all fuel breaks in Amador and Calaveras counties; none in Dorrington; Forest Meadows – 2006 CWPP developed, but none of the people in the HOA know about it. Had CEQA done and put in fuel break; still exists. CalFire didn't know Last Chance was in the hopper; no one knew about it. Put together project with the HOA and CalFire; Vallecitos will do work; phase 2 connects to Last Chance. Phase 3 to Murphys and phase 4; 325 acres added to Last Chance; total about 750 acres; work to be done over next few years. • Communication not great on this. Group may need to consider how to improve the process.
8	<p>Meadow Restoration Project (Starrett): <i>Presentation will be distributed with minutes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat, Gwen, Rich Farrington; supported by Amador Ranger District; could be a post-CFLR project model. Build capacity with local workforce; 3 small meadows, 3-8 acres each; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FS exerts said roads are a problem: need to reconnect channels to floodplain; yellow frog habitat; • May use NFF as fiscal agent; call scheduled for 1/19 to discuss; UMWRA may have a role. • Provide regular updates to Planning Work Group • 1:00 Feb 14th, supervisors meeting – post info to web site calendar • Wants ACCG letter of support if they get a fiscal sponsor; would come back to the March meeting with a draft letter; asking for in-kind match from ACCG members? Probably can't be federal funds; Meets one hour ahead of Planning WG meetings; Needs to find expertise on how to build capacity.
Updates	
9	<p>Admin Work Group update (Heisenbittel) – John has stepped down, but will continue to administer Micheau's contract until it expires on 1/31. Contract is being extended until the end of FY2019; Don Hintenmiller will fill John's vacancy and will administer this contract.</p>
10	<p>Planning Work Group update (Wall, Cablayan) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 24th (provided the government shut-down is not in effect) at Calaveras RS in Hathaway Pines • Scottiago Hazard Tree... scoping closed, no comments; refer questions to Chuck Loffland.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Arnold-Avery Farm Bill Project Update</i> – Field trip is scheduled for February 28th, Calaveras Office, after the Planning WG meeting. This is being organized by Alaina Osimowitz. Please contact her with question: aosimowicz@fs.fed.us
11	<p>Monitoring Work Group update (Wall)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Becky Estes (FS) is anxious to move forward with the SI socioeconomic monitoring study. Want to determine how it can inform future planning decisions. Next meeting is 2/14 at Supervisors office in Placerville before the NFWF meeting. Jill to put on ACCG calendar.</i>
12	<p>Agency/organization updates (round table)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robin Wall, Forest Service -- <i>NFWF press release on 12th... 2/1 proposals; open house 2/14; Questions on press release. See press release here: http://www.nfwf.org/whoweare/mediacenter/pr/Pages/nfwf-announces-new-northern-california-forests-and-watersheds-grant-program-in-partnership-with-us-forest-service-2018-0112.aspx</i> • Katherine Evetts, Foothill Conservancy – <i>All are invited to Lee Stetson as John Muir February 3rd at 7PM; there will also be an acting workshop; get more information here: http://www.foothillconservancy.org/pages/events.cgi?calcatid=1&calid=650&fn=650.649.648</i> • Rich Farrington, UMWRA – <i>There will be a Board meeting 1/26, at Pardee; open to the public; Sierra Institute contract is for a multi-county area; Department of Water Resources contractors to identify needs for disadvantaged communities; want many people to participate.</i> • Rick Hopson, Forest Service -- <i>Power Fire decision signed; working with tribes to change names to tribal (See November ACCG minutes).</i> • Becky Estes, Forest Service -- <i>Dr. Hugh Safford's recently published report is now available on FS and ACCG webs: Natural Range of Variation for Yellow Pine and Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada. Find it here: https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr256/psw_gtr256.pdf</i> • Scott Tangenberg, Forest Service – <i>Sierra Resource Management Council is proposing a watershed assessment of the Calaveras River above New Hogan reservoir. Collect avail information; data collection; funding already obligated; interested parties, please come to lunch after the meeting at the Cozy Cabin Café, or contact Scott at: stangenberg@fs.fed.us</i> • Ray Cablayan, Forest Service – <i>Pumpkin Hollow review at UMWRA meeting...</i> • Joe Aragon, Forest Service – <i>Hosting next 2 ACCG Planning meetings at Calaveras; February 28th, field trip to new project, Arnold-Avery forest health; ties into existing fuel breaks in WUI around area. 3,000* acres (not sure I got this right -- JM); plantations; IDT meeting earlier in February, but no date set; will invite ACCG to attend.</i> • Chuck Loffland – <i>There are new studies on bird populations and bees – ask Chuck for links, or check with Robin Wall.</i> • Susan McMorris, BMCRC – <i>We have a great group of parents and advocates; art and music in schools; 3D printer; sharing stuff; organic gardens;</i> • Ruben Childress, Foothill Conservancy -- <i>Great turn out at this meeting in the new year – feeling very positive.</i>

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13	<p>Wrap up (Pickard)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Lunch after the meeting at the Cozy Cabin – continue conversations and networking there!</i>• <i>Need facilitators for 2018 meetings</i>• <i>Next meeting February 21, 2018</i> <p>Location: 12200 Airport Road, Sutter Creek</p>
Meeting Adjourned at Noon	

All: Note the 2018 meeting schedule and speaker calendar on the next page.

I need facilitators for most meetings... please send me an email letting me know when you can facilitate.

Thanks in advance! I know I will get DOZENS of volunteers!

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2018 Meeting Schedule:

Meeting Date and Location	Presenter	Topic
January 17 West Point Facilitator: M. Pickard	Stephanie Heller, USFS Tahoe Region	An Overview of Meadow Restoration Techniques Implemented by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit USFS
February 21 Jackson Facilitator: E. Kleinfelter	Sierra Institute (Not yet confirmed)	Socioeconomic Monitoring
March 21 West Point Facilitator: xxx	Shelly Blair, CA Fish & Wildlife	Wildlife-Human Interaction
April 25 Jackson Facilitator: xxx	Scott Stephens, UC Berkeley	The impacts of the high tree mortality in the Sierra and ideas on how to get ahead of the problem
May 16 West Point Facilitator: xxx	Kevin Vella District Biologist California/Nevada NWTF	Partnering for Success: The National Wild Turkey Federation has entered into a 10 year stewardship agreement with the Eldorado National Forest. Within this agreement, the NWTF is able to assist the ENF in increasing the pace and scale of fuels reduction projects that aid in wildlife habitat enhancement. We will be taking a look at how things are going so far, and how this agreement will impact the future of our forest.
June 20 Jackson Facilitator: xxx		
July 18 West Point Facilitator: xxx		
August 15 Jackson Facilitator: xxx	Dr. Hugh Safford	Natural Range of Variation for Yellow Pine and Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada
September 19 West Point Facilitator: xxx		
October 17 Jackson Facilitator: xxx		
November 21 West Point Facilitator: xxx		

If you have recommendations for speakers, please email contact info to