**Location:  Amador County GSA Building, 12200 Airport Road, Sutter Creek, CA 95685
Meeting Facilitator: Shana Gross  Minutes: Jill Micheau**

**Attendees: *Becky Estes; Michelle Havens; Kent Lambert; Gwen Starrett; Reuben Childress; Julia Stephens; Ray Cablayan; Shana Gross; Pat McGreevy; Jeff Blewett; Robin Wall; Bill Haigh; David Griffith; Steve Ogburn; Gerald Schwartz; Terry Woodrow; Rick Hopson; Ron Haimes; Jay Francis; Steve Wilensky; Jill Micheau***

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| **Item Number** | **Agenda Item** | **Owner(s)** | **Est. Time** | **Minutes**  |
| 1 | Call to order | Shana Gross | 9:30 AM | 0 |
| 2 | Participants introductions | All | 9:30 | 5 |
| 3 | Modification and/or approval of agenda*Approved.* | All | 9:35 | 5 |
| 4 | Approval of August minutes*Approved.* | All | 9:40 | 5 |
| **Presentations and Business** |
| 5 | **Landscape-level assessment and strategy:**The USFS R5 ecology program is developing a post-fire landscape strategy. As part of the strategy, we have developed case studies to test the framework. One of the case studies evaluates a landscape experiencing mortality to determine if the strategy framework can be applied to disturbances other than fire. Shana will present the overall strategic guiding principles, framework, and the mortality case study which focuses on the North Fork of the Tuolumne watershed. *Presentation to be posted to web site.* | Shana Gross | 9:45 | 30 |
| 6 | Power Fire Restoration Project Record of DecisionDiscussion: *FS issued DRAFT ROD on 8/2; 45-day objection period closes on 10/10. Opportunity for ACCG to write letter, either consensus letter or objections to changes from any outside parties. There are no more ACCG meetings scheduled between now and 10/10. The FS Regional Office anticipates objections and is planning a meeting ~ 11/21 with the Regional FS Supervisor and objectors to discuss.** *Nature of objections? Perhaps herb use. No objections yet. If none are received, then FS will proceed with decisions.*
* *Childress (Foothill Conservancy): within the ACCG Planning Group, there is no consensus. Worked with FS on alternatives; would prefer to have had influence before the objection process.*
* *FS’s concerns: planting strategies for reforestation may not be aggressive enough; draft decision did not pay attention to ACCG’s input; densities too high, herbicides too high.*
* *Hopson (FS): the ROD included 3 densities instead of 5.*
* *Starrett: still struggling with consensus on Panther Project; we haven’t resolved our process.*
* *Wilensky (ACCG): the history of practices regarding herbicides and densities; there is lots of new information; our arguments have taken somewhat historical positions; we need to have discussions about these issues. Need to look at literature; new products? Compromises that could lead to consensus? We should try to have those discussions. Perhaps we need a special working group to discuss densities, species distribution, and herbicides?*
* *We should get the best available research, then have a discussion.*
* *Gross (FS): need to learn from new things.*
* *Wilensky: really do experiments!*
* *Hopson: Big value to having ACCG consensus letter.*
* *There is a time challenge – can we do by email?*

***It was decided that this will be addressed at next Wednesday’s planning meeting. Robin to add to agenda, allowing at least an hour.**** *Childress noted that John Heissenbuttle will not be present for that meeting.*
* *Jay Francis, (SPI) – we used to plant too densely; have changed to 14-15 foot spacing from 10; brush is an issue, so need treatment*
* *Wilensky: There are two possible approaches; middle ground or try to do multiple thigs at same time. What could satisfy all? Show options then follow up on outcome? Can this be worked out in the planning meeting?*
* *Childress: I feel that we could send a letter, but it would not yield results;*
* *Hopson disagrees; letter would be strongly considered.*
* *Shana: we should try.*
* ***It was decided that a letter from us should split things up to request that multiple approaches be tested and monitored. Details to be determined at the next Planning Meeting (9/27 at 9:00 AM, Amador Ranger District, Pioneer, CA)***
* *Estes (FS): The Power Fire has lots of background and monitoring plots; so that approach could work.*
* *A show of hands was requested for who will attend the next planning meeting. Several people will attend.*
* ***Next steps: put onto planning meeting agenda; decide to do letter or not (by a committee); draft key points; find consensus, then create draft letter to circulate. send around via email;***
* *Estes: WE’ve had lots of discussions on options;*
* *Thinning issues – this is something that doesn’t get done down the road, so it becomes an issue.*
* *Wilensky: We need to look at trends and mortality with regard to climate change…*
* ***Hopson will help Jill set up a panel discussion on this topic for the October or November ACCG general meeting.***
 | Rick Hopson | 10:15 | 30 |
| 7 | Forest Management Plan Revisions – El Dorado and Stanislaus*These plans are in a holding pattern because of changes in the Administration (elections); had public meetings earlier, but still/now in holding pattern. Still gathering data.*  | Robin Wall | 10:45 | 15 |
| **Updates**  |
| 8 | Admin Work Group update* *Nothing*
 | John Heisenbuttel | 11:00 | 0 |
| 9 | Planning Work Group update* *Power Fire EIS will be discussed next Wednesday;*
* *Field trip to Foster Meadows + western bumblebee monitoring*
* *Starrett and McGreevy will provide update on Onion Meadow work*
* *Scottiago project in the works; did field trip a few months ago.*
 | Robin Wall | 11:00 | 5 |
| 10 | Monitoring Work Group update* *Shana distributed a flyer for the* ***November monitoring symposium****. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED –this can be done from the ACCG website… look under “Hot Topics” :* [*http://acconsensus.org/2017/08/22/accg-monitoring-science-symposium/*](http://acconsensus.org/2017/08/22/accg-monitoring-science-symposium/%20) *The symposium will include a multiple party strategy; all speakers will write a highlight of their research;*
* *We are lacking in* ***socio-economic monitoring data****; hard to move forward; participation in the Monitoring Group has started to decline; the FS is required to do the socio-econ monitoring;*
* *Is anyone willing to work on this, or shall we go with Chico state?*
* *Wilensky: What can we borrow from the Dinke model?*
* *Gross: we researched that; we couldn’t afford it.*
* *Wall: Dinke used outside contractors; made it very expensive.*
* *Wilensky: can we just model our efforts on their work to do it on the cheap? Within ACCG, many organizations can provide data on hiring, employment, etc.*
* *Gross: the Monitoring Group is at a loss as to how to proceed. We need help.*
* ***Wilensky volunteered to discuss/help; Will put on next Monitoring Group agenda; Next meeting will be face-to-face, October 11th (location and time?); Will discuss what methodology to use. Steve to attend.***
* ***Collaborative monitoring surveys*** *– decided to do all 4 collaborative surveys at once at the beginning of a monitoring meeting – date will not be announced. It has been very difficult to get any significant response to these surveys. The surveys have been redesigned. This will be an attempt to gather data on collaboration – key to the CFLR program*
* ***Monitoring event update****: several volunteers and FS staff participated in a meadow monitoring event on August 30-31.*
 | Shana Gross | 11:05 | 10 |
| 11 | Operations Work Group update* *Nothing*
 | John Heisenbuttel | 11:15 | 0 |
| 12 | Agency/organization updates (round table)* ***Bill Haigh (BLM)*** *– Lillygap; will have contractors on the ground by winter; also fuels variance issue for archeological issues. $150K for archeologists to do full cultural surveys – will start about a month from now.*
* ***David Griffith (ABC)*** *– we are penniless; few private donors; want ideas for funding, don’t need a lot; maybe will become a 501C3; at last ABC meeting, we had a great presentation on muscle-powered recreation and its impact on economies; Dan Stroud; Washington FS attended. Would ACCG like a similar presentation****? Jill to get details from David.***
* ***Pat McGreevy (Cal Am)****:*
	+ *South fork Mokelumne, 912 acres in sandy gulch; trying to wind up planning; grant in draft stage; usually NEPA done first -- you can combine NEPA and CEQA; fed and state working together;*
	+ *Also applying for an implemention grant from SNC for $500K; pre-appication is done; SNC will send inspectors to site visit 9/28; fuels reduction project. All on BLM land.*
* ***Robin Wall (FS Amador):*** *annual report for FY17 -- Coming up; need to ask various ACCG members for info; Robin will talk to our groups about volunteer time; travel; write-ups of projects, work days, etc. Robin needs information on volunteer contributions and projects, success stories, etc. She will write to some ACCG groups to request information, but if you have something to contribute, just send it to her. The full report is due in early December, so we need to have a list of accomplishments by our next full meeting. Will draft the report in early November; Jill will work with Robin and others.*
* ***Ray Cablayan (FS Stanislaus):*** *We have a new supervisor as of 10/23. Ray noted that Kuiken is very much in favor of partnerships;* Jason Kuiken was selected as the Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor, the U.S. Forest Service announced. Kuiken most recently was the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in central Washington.Prior to his work on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Kuiken was a district ranger on the Chippewa National Forest in northern Minnesota and before that assignment, at the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, where he focused much attention on the mountain pine beetle epidemic throughout the Rocky Mountains.  He has also worked for the USDA's Office of Budget and Program Analysis. “My family and I are very excited to join the Stanislaus National Forest and carry on the great traditions of meeting the Agency’s mission in the Sierras,” Kuiken said. Acting Forest Supervisor Scott Tangenberg will continue his leadership until Kuiken arrives on the Stanislaus National Forest on Oct. 23.
	+ ***Hemlock****: Pumpkin Hollow hand thinning mastication projects moving forward KCRA wants to do a story on Pumpkin; set to air 9/26 (this has been changed – for info, contact Diana Fredlund, 209-288-6261);*
	+ ***Cabbage Patch:*** *UMRA has put in the pre-application for an SNC grant; Michael Pickard is scoring projects today;*
	+ *We’ve had lots of* ***lightning strikes*** *lately ; a few fires burning in wilderness; winding down; burned 4K acres; Douglas has about 500 acres; Willow is smaller; there is another active fire called the Creek Fire -- can’t get to it because of challenging terraine*
* ***Julia Stephens (Greater Valley CC):*** *With regard to the Power Fire conversation, this type of struggle is what brought us together in the first place. We need to pause and figure out how to do this again, strengthen group. Don’t burn out!*
	+ *GVCC partnered with CHIPS on Pumpkin Hollow; exciting for core members of the Sonora branch; big project; crew members loving it; bringing on more members; great for school and college kids; provides opportunities for young adults across multiple counties.*
* ***Steve Ogburn (Cedar Mills):*** *got permit approved at last, but missed summer season; looking at financials, politics, etc.*
* ***Gwen Starrett (CalAm):*** *Participated in the Thompson Meadow monitoring project – if there is interest in going to see the Indian Valley meadow restoration: stay after to schedule with Gwen*
* ***Rick Hobson (FS Amador):***
	+ ***Timber sales:*** *Foster First sold; Copycat broke into 2 sales; hope to sell;*
	+ *Final decision on* ***Panther Project*** *is a few weeks out;*
	+ ***Funding issues:*** *Significant funds transfers have been shut down for the remaining fiscal year; we are trying to address this; hopefully those funds will be repaid by Congress next year; expect to get it back at some point.*
	+ ***FS Business Plan Update:*** *Will share business plan update soon; still working on that process and plan*
* ***Ron Hames (Alpine Board of Supervisors)****:*
	+ *SNC will hold a meeting 10/23 on* ***biomass in Auburn****; SNC will announce it;*
	+ ***Indian Valley*** *fabulous success; stream flows very high, if not done, meadow would have been a mess;*
	+ *SNC briefed upcoming state legislature money* ***25040M*** *to them for different funds; more money than before; apply for grants! Reapply; check your rating;*
	+ ***Aspen festival*** *– walks, dates are 10/7 and 8 – meeting site is close to Blue Lakes road; see aspenfest.org;*
* ***Jay Francis (SPI)****:*
	+ *At last meeting, promised an update on topic of tree mortality: heard back from Amador City, who provided some numbers; mitigated 1100 trees and hope to do 895 additional to bring total to about 2,000 trees;*
	+ *SPI through August in the Martel District, removed ~35.4M board feet, 7300 trucks of logs, or 48,000 trees since beginning of 2016. Other salvage efforts? Hobson: no numbers yet. AM no numbers; Placer district have some; any salvage in CALaveras? Cablayan: couple of small sales; nothing new.*
* ***Steve Wilensky (CHIPS):***
	+ ***Trex*** *(training exchange) is coming in; secured Lodestar Camp for fire base; up to 40 people there, 20 registered so far; have 7 targeted burn sites; Glencoe, Big Trees, both in and out of park; Glencoe; SPI has some planed burns around park, maybe Trex can be involved: November 1-14 is fire camp; still have couple of scholarships available. Would need to attend the full time. 10 working at Tahoe; 6 in Utah; 10 in Pumpkin; 7 in Yosemite (6 weeks doing cultural site restoration; wonderful work; 42 FTEs and still hiring;*
	+ ***Auction price*** *has reached 18.6 cents; holding out for 19; breaking ground in early October; will have a party.*
	+ ***Appealed PGE cost*** *– we won; they cut it in half; busy year; 15 FTEs in Alpine county;*
	+ ***Cannibis in CA*** *– cannot smoke anywhere; not on fed lands; lost 3 people because they didn’t know this.*
 | All | 11:15 | 20 |
| 13 | Strategic planning update – discussion:* ACCG focus: federal lands vs. all lands?
* ACCG role: conduit for communication vs. on-the-ground project work?

***Did not have time for this topic – move to future agenda.*** | Jill Micheau | 11:35 | 20 |
| 14 | **Wrap up*** Need facilitators for November, January meetings
* Next meeting October 18, 2017, **Veterans’ Memorial Building, West Point, CA**
 | Shana Gross | 11:55 | 5 |
| **Meeting Adjourns at Noon** |

# 2017 Meeting Schedule:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Location** | **Facilitator** | **Speakers/Topics** |
| September 20 | Jackson | Shana Gross | Shana Gross: tree mortality |
| October 18 | West Point | Robin Wall | Helen Loffland: Bees (not confirmed yet) |
| November 15 | Jackson | Reuben Childress | Eric Kleinfelter: Mule deer research in the Sierra Nevada (confirmed) |

# 2018 Meeting Schedule:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Location** | **Facilitator** | **Speakers/Topics** |
| January 17 | West Point | Steve Wilensky |  |
| February 21 | Jackson |  |  |
| 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 |  |  |