Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group

September 9, 2009

Break-out Group Discussion Notes

 Group #1 Mission

* Reduce fuel load
* Create local jobs with livable wages
* Sustainable job employment, diversify economy
* Treating public, private lands
* Technically feasible and economically viable
* Reduce intensity of wildfires
* Identify processors, end users, material generators, and pull together
* Develop process to take from point A to point B
* End consumer for each element of waste materials
* Balance of reducing fire risk and erosion control
* Seek financial support and bring together research and development to avoid failure

Group #1 Vision

* Healthy, diverse and productive forest lands
* Create sustainability for local communities including tribes
* Appropriately managed forest lands, highly resistant to wildfire
	1. •Public and private land
	2. •Contractors
	3. •Equipment
	4. •Transportation

•Material removal using best management practices

* 1. •Material quality control

End Users

Group # 1 Guiding Principles

* Utilize woody biomass material to the maximum extent possible
* Coordinate and utilize resources (equipment, personnel, and financial)
* Conduct project work in a way that minimizes impacts to the watershed
* Utilize local labor to the maximum extent possible
* Maintain working knowledge of local ecology
* Conduct project work to maintain significant archeological sites
* Treat all stakeholders, including competitors with dignity and respect

Group #1 Roles and Responsibilities

* Ethics, rules guidance as to how the group operates and how we treat each other, next step to specifically define individual and organizational roles and responsibility
* The list from the guide is similar and possibly redundant
* Serve as a representative of the group to the community
* Support projects, initiatives, funding proposals and the related activities that have been adopted
* Action =MOU – programmatic EA/EIR

Group # 2 Vision

* Fire safe community
* Use resources to build a sustainable economy with good paying jobs for locals
* Resources stewarded well
* Private landowners engaged in (private land treated/maintained)
* Recreation resources (trails, rivers, etc) that serve locals and bring in $$
* Scenic beauty, habitat etc are retained and sustained

Group #2 Mission

* Be a model for other groups
* Build fire safe community
* Demonstrate how diverse group can work together successfully for community wildfire protection
* Use projects to educate public (education/ marketing)
* Ecological and socioeconomic benefit of fuels reduction
* Ensure resources are used to create good paying jobs without compromising the integrity of the resources
* Work for sustainable economy community and environment
* Engage and involve private landowners
* Identify opportunities for new recreation facilities and protect existing resources

Group # 2 Member Roles and Responsibilities

* Participants educate each other about issues and interests
* Need to resolve – who can be a member?
* Core group and committees
* Need media policy
* Like the list

Group # 2 Guiding Principles

* Use local contractors and workers to the max possible extent
* Ensure all projects are ecologically sustainable
* Actively involve interested stakeholders in planning and process
* Be sensitive to cultural needs, practices and resources
* Share project information openly and often
* Ensure local contractors and workers have the training and resources they need to succeed
* Focus on fire-safe projects for communities
* Use woody biomass in a sustainable manner
* Develop value added industry that uses forest products sustainably
* Coordinate with other community projects and programs (trails & rivers etc.)

Group # 3 Mission

* The Amador –Calaveras Consensus Group initiates, encourages, supports, and implements balanced community-based efforts to improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Amador-Calaveras region, it’s communities and citizens.

Group #3 Vision

* We the people of the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group believe the collaborative activities of all regional stakeholders will result in a changed relationship between local communities and our forested lands, so that our economy will be rebuilt on an ethic of land stewardship.

Group #3 Guiding Principles

 **Forestry Examples**

* All projects be based on a stewardship ethic
* Focus project work on consensus driven activities
* Conduct project work ways that enhance maintenance or restore healthy watersheds
* Use best available science and technology in guiding project work
* Utilize woody biomass which would otherwise pose an air quality or fire threat or be wanted in more productive ways
* Encourage activities that support forest resiliency

**Economic Examples**

* Foster a locally based forest products industry on public and private lands
* Support expedited process for conducting activities under these principles

**Social Examples**

* Foster respect for the people and history of our region
* No fighting – work and play well with others

**Environmental Examples**

* Restore wildlife habitat
* Restore, enhance, maintain, healthy watersheds
* Improve overall air quality in the region

Group #3 Member Roles and Responsibilities

* Courtesy and consideration for others are the foundation for organizational success (i.e. no fighting)
* Alternative Version – “get along or get out”

Group #4 Misison

* Wildfire prevention
* Healthy forest / Healthy economy (sustainable vs. boom-bust)
* Recognized paradigm shift of resource
* Driven economies (extraction to biomass, etc.)
* Conflict driven relationships to collaboration
* Watershed protection
* The A-CCG is a community-based organization with the goal of converting forest conditions and community relationships into a sustainable local economy and healthy forest and watershed conditions

Group #4 Vision

* A-CCG is to have a healthy economic environment supported by the social and natural assets of the community
* Self sustaining/ holistic
* The vision of the A-CCG is holistic relationships between the land (public & private) people and economy in our local communities and to move away from reactive (firefighting) to proactive (prevention) land management

Group #4 Guiding Principles

 Forestry examples

* Coordinate and leverage resources available through public and private partners
* Utilize woody biomass material to the maximum extent possible
* Include all stakeholders in planning process as a means of mitigating conflict

Economic Examples

* Utilize local contractors to the maximum extent possible
* Foster partnership that maximize the effectiveness and competitive status of local workforce
* Work toward self-sustaining electricity infrastructure

Social Examples

* Maximize the use of previously unemployed, local labors
* Share information openly and often about projects and promote awareness of issues of unhealthy forests

Environmental Examples

* Apply appropriate planning and design mechanisms to projects as required by statute
* Solicit input from all stakeholders early and often
* Use low impact techniques to accomplish project goals
* Restore ecosystem composition as a component of all possible projects

Group #4 Member Roles and Responsibilities

Member Roles

* Follow through on commitments
* Ask for help if you need it – don’t be afraid to project your limitations

Member Responsibilities

* Celebrate successes together
* Recognize and celebrate group based vs. ego based credit

Group #5 Vision and Mission

* Energy independence
* Amador and Calaveras Counties experience healthy and sustainable economies, ecosystems, communities
* Manage, protect, and restore public and private lands using a landscape approach within a framework of environmental responsibilities, community collaboration and economic sustainability
* Promote a level playing field for contractors
* Open and transparent process
* Focus on areas within zone of agreement
* Capturing maximum economic value of resource
* Minimize export of low value material

Group #5 Guiding Principles

* Conduct activities which protect, restore or enhance the watershed/soil
* Use local contractors to the maximum extent possible
* Provide living wage for the local workforce
* Treating everyone with dignity and respect
* Conduct activities which build local contractor capacity and cooperation
* Sustainable
* Regional
* Economy/maximize value of
* Fuel removed
* Maximize use of local resources
* Best value = local

Key Components

* Manage protect and Improve public and private forested lands with a landscape approach
* Multiple uses and sustained yield
* Within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology
* Landscape approach
* Foster collaboration among varied community stakeholders