

# Amador Calaveras Consensus Group

## Minutes

Wednesday February 21, 2018 -- 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

**Location:** 12200 Airport Road, Sutter Creek

**Meeting Facilitator:** Eric Kleinfelter, CA Fish & Wildlife ••• **Minutes:** Jill Micheau

*In attendance: Jennifer Chapman; Terry Woodrow; Michael Pickard; Liz Gregg; Heidi Beswick; Bill Haigh; Steve Wilensky; Katherine Evatt; David Griffith; Ben Solvinsky; Rich Farrington; Eric Kleinfelter; Sue Holper; Deb Phillips; Scott Tangenberg; Reuben Childress; John Heisenbottle; Gwen Starrett; Robin Wall; Gordon Long; Rick Hopson; Carrina Robertson; Chuck Loffland; Phil Cannon; Jill Micheau.*

Item	Agenda Item
1	Call to order (Kleinfelter) – done at 9:05
2	Participants introductions
3	Modification and/or approval of agenda and January minutes– <a href="#">Approved with updates from Gwen..</a>
<b>Presentations and Business</b>	
4	<p><b>Forest Service Perspectives (Crabtree, 30 minutes):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● FS perspective on collaboration and where we go from here – interesting time to be in leadership in FS; hard for Laurence to interpret direction given to him. Pivoting to timber output in FS; want more timber produced and more acres treated. Target 40M board feet, 13K acres fuel treatment. Could only fill 2 jobs last year. 30 vacancies on Eldorado now. Need to deliver more with less; Collaboratives take time. Better projects, collaboration is a big deal; FS wants collaboration and its benefits. Will be more important in future than ever. Quicker to deliver projects. 30 vacancies on forest, not including fire people. In a recent meeting some people expressed concern over FS-ACCG relationship. Some feel ill-treated. Will try to bring projects to ACCG earlier.</li><li>● Timber sales need NEPA... with no staff do that, how will it get done? FS NEPA is different from other agencies. Strong effort to figure out what's needed and slim down the requirements.</li><li>● Can contract, get consultant botanists, etc.</li><li>● How does this affect CFLR? Will do things besides this but timber is flagship. New business plan for CFLR still includes fuel treatment and reduction; Plan not finalized yet. Reassessment of targets for noxious weeds, burning, etc. Most edits for things not feasible because of unavoidable variables like weather, tree mortality, etc.</li><li>● Suggested that we begin discussion about these issues. FS says we are not on a path to 1970s cutting levels. Maybe cutting 25% of annual growth. ACCG concern is not volume but methods; avoid going back into silos. Be mindful of federal pressures versus local concerns. Cutting only 25% of growth means we are adding much more fuel in the forest.</li><li>● Acres treated is greatest concern. Targets about 10-fold less than earlier years; this adds fuels; need to address. Quick decisions and collaboratives are an oxymoron. How make quick decisions? Sierra Club just came out against using slash in biomass facilities. Power Fire took 14 years to make decisions. Herbicide issues slow us down.</li><li>● NEPA is a big issue. Hemlock done, large area; where is broad scale NEPA needed so partnerships can accomplish work? Are large-scale NEPA projects feasible? Also need CEQA if state funding is used. We need a comprehensive NEPA project map. <b>(Planning WG can discuss; large NEPA vs CE, farm bill, EIA, etc. Scottiogo, roadside hazards, potential projects)</b></li><li>● State is investing more in watershed protection; may be a better target for FS, make CEQA equivalent – takes some extra effort, but worth it in the long run.</li></ul> <p><b>Questions/Discussion</b> – Power Fire Settlement agreement – Laurence Crabtree brought 2 copies. <b>(JM will ask him to send)</b></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer facilitation as idea for ACCG to consider. Some members prefer rotation; dependence not good for the group. Just be nice to each other. It was noted that we all agree to self-policing but we don't practice it well – maybe use facilitators? Discuss at March general meeting. <i>(JM put on March agenda)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>(Tangenberg, 15 minutes)</b> Collaboration brings great value. Far less litigation; credit goes to ACCG. Model for others across the region and nation. New master stewardship agreement with Tuolumne county. YSS now has voice and responsibility for what happens on the landscape. Forest Service is undergoing a zoning reorganization, with new boundaries across regions-zones. Intent is to broaden perspectives, not individual districts, etc. Anticipate 15% increase for next year, but still no extra staff. Postings are only for internal candidates; backfill prospects not good. Staffing, combined with increased demand, is a concern.</p>
5	<p><b>NFWF Grants; CFLR Funding (Hopson)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NFWF Grant Opportunities: Open house last week (2/14); put some CFLR funds into that agreement; used to balance budget, spend unspent funds. Increased geographic scale of where CFLR funds can be spent; wants to use for Foster Meadow; decision was made without consulting this group. Will try to avoid this in the future.</li> <li>A suggestion was made that ACCG appoint a “rapid response team” to avoid this type of issue. We frequently cannot address issues fast enough to be effective and create ad hoc teams to work on behalf of the full group. Many thought “rapid response” is an oxymoron for consensus groups. <i>(JM to put this on strategic planning agenda)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onion Meadow project is case study of how this should/could work.</li> <li>Noted that grant turnaround time is too strict to allow ACCG input – <i>(JM put on next agenda; rapid response and other efficiencies) Get professional facilitation for this item???</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>USFS Regional Pathologist: Eldorado National Forest – Eldorado NF Roadside Hazard Tree Project ) – (Phil Cannon, 30 minutes)</b> – Discussion notes: Scoping letter sent out last week. Will do NEPA for all level 2, 3, 4, 5 roads in Eldorado NF. Will be hosting a demonstration of how trees selected for removal. Gives 20 hazard tree courses year. Zone is 200 feet either side of center line of a road. Trying to do NEPA quickly. Will do all NEPA this year plus cut on Mormon Immigrant Trail area. Wood may be used for biomass, firewood or building materials for tribal groups.</li> <li>How is this being funded? Good question. Deficit spending? Salvage value? Submit to CalFire as a Tier 1 hazard zones for possible funding? Tier one system – CEQA exempt for now.</li> <li>Will do sample marking only. Intent is not to mark. Will mark green trees, not snags.</li> <li>Cal Trans has another million trees to remove.</li> <li>Can surface and ladder fuel removal be incorporated? Suggests that <b>ACCG send in comments for this.</b> CE category may preclude it.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Consensus Requests (Childress, Starrett, Long, total 15 minutes):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Last Chance Fuel Break – ACCG Letter of Support (Childress)</b> <i>(letter posted to ACCG web)</i> – McGreevy presented letter at last meeting; mastication/ fuel reduction project along Hwy 4 and Utica Ditch system. Sent to Planning Work Group; small edits made; recommends ACCG support. <b>AGREED. JM to send LOS ASAP</b></li> <li><b>Onion Meadow Project – delegate to Planning WG to consider letter of support (due 1 day before next ACCG meeting)? (Starrett)</b> – presented last month; update: applying for NFWF grant for phase 1. Will ask for phase 2 funding next year. Applicant will be Amador RCD. Good match. Requesting authority go to ACCG Planning Group to review grant and generate letter of support. Timing too tight to do it at next General meeting. Work is “certifiably cool” ... <b>Approved to move authority to planning meeting + interested parties (Gwen to do this).</b></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Calaveras RCD request to become new ACCG MOA signatory (Long) – Cal RCD new as of June 2016. Just getting started. <i>Group approved this request; MOA signed after meeting.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Updates</b>	
8	<p><b>Admin Work Group update (Micheau, 5 minutes) –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Requested people to sign up to facilitate 2018 general meetings; sign-up sheet circulated and volunteers have signed up! Many Thanks!!!</li> <li>● Asked group if interest in field trip to Experimental Forest – <i>JM will post info on web and poll group.</i></li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Planning Work Group update (Wall, Robertson, 10 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Arnold-Avery Farm Bill Project Update</b> – field trip 2/28 at 11:00 – bring lunch, hard hats, public can come; easily accessible, own transportation. Fuel break.</li> <li>● <b>Last Chance Fuel Break</b> – Now that have LOS, will move to contracting phase; will announce on FedBizOps within a couple weeks. Might be an IDIQ blanket contract, which would be streamlined.</li> <li>● <b>Black springs</b> – OHV camp ground – at a standstill right now.</li> <li>● <b>Slick Rock</b> – under new ownership; moving trail to avoid crossing private land. EA to be signed within 2 weeks; 45-day comment <i>period (unsure if this is necessary. Will need to confirm this – not sure if the 45 day thing needed)</i> Home owners will close gate if FS doesn't show initiative and progress.</li> <li>● <b>Agenda for next planning meeting needs to go out. (Robin)</b></li> <li>● <b>March planning meeting</b> -- agenda will be going out soon. Field trip to Scottiago</li> </ul>
10	<p><b>Monitoring Work Group update (Wall, Estes, 5 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Socioeconomic monitoring WG status</b> – Contract: contract is with FS contracts group; done within 2 weeks. Subgroup will work with Sierra Institute. Can we get more volunteers?</li> <li>● <b>2018 Monitoring Scope of Work – Gwen:</b> Signup sheet sent around for 2018 meadow monitoring projects. How engage younger people? Hook into high school students? Forestry challenge program, etc. Cal Career fair. Maybe emulate health care High School program? Forest challenge project? Delta and Columbia colleges? Smith grinding has guys that need training – contact Deb Phillips. <i>(JM request monitoring framework slide from Gwen; post to web)</i></li> </ul>
11	<p><b>Agency/organization updates (round table) (All, 25 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>David Griffith, ABC:</b> changed name to “collaborative” because that’s where the money is. Becoming a 501c3. Malcom North presented at last ABC meeting on spotted owl. Got \$20K loan for biomass which will serve as the matching funds for an EDA grant application to complete a for biomass study. Steve and CHIPS helped. FS being decimated. Missed deadline because had no one to write grants. Humboldt can’t find anyone to fill out the paperwork.</li> <li>● <b>Steve Wilensky, CHIPS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mother Lode Job Training is providing training money for people on staff to teach prescribed burning. 20 basic 32 fire training. S212.</li> <li>● Wilseyville site is paved, road built; tub grinder and loader there. Ready for 1st logs. Need a self-loading log truck to get wood from immediate neighborhood.</li> <li>● In discussions with 3 potential funders for \$21M projects. Most want 20% ROI and equity – trying to get deal for community.</li> <li>● Renewed agreement with Yosemite to work taking Mariposa Grove road out, parking lots to meadows, etc. planning and restoration, cultural sites in Tuolumne Meadows. – have our first female foreperson. – 4 year agreement with Tahoe NF for Washoe crew; almost done with BLM butte fire burning of cattle fences.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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● **Bill Haigh, BLM:** Lillygap Phase 2 is one-third done outside West Point. Might get about \$1M for central water projects; GHG grants, broadcast of Lillygap Phase 1; South Mokelumne and Lillygap added to areas outside West Point.

● **Michael Pickard, Sierra Nevada Conservancy:** hiring replacement for Alpine County – April. Announcing South Fork Mokelumne \$.5M grant to Board 3/6. **Name???** being reappointed to Board. Welcome back. SNC grants, only have prop 1 funds, not on course for grant cycle this year. Next will be Sept 2019. June ballot prop 68, \$55M to SNC for grants. If it happens in June, likely to open up this year. Focus more open, i.e., recreation projects, studies, meadows, trail maintenance, etc.

**Katherine Evatt, Foothill Conservancy:** California National Resource Agency AB 142 Mokelumne River Wild and Scenic River Study Report out for review. Public meeting last week. Public comment until 3/9. Result will be recommended to legislature. Web link: <http://resources.ca.gov/programs-projects/wildandscenic/>

**Rick Hopson, Amador RD:**

- Scottiago timber sale: already had field trip; timber sale will be discussed at next Planning Meeting; March field trip. Need more participation in projects earlier.
- Power EIS: contracts out the door for brush cutting and herbicides. National Forest Foundation calls – trying to get Kim Karr back into this group.
- Kendall Young: changed date of SOFAR meetings so no overlap with this group. Planning now on Thursdays. Trying to cross-pollinate groups.

**Jennifer Chapman, FS Public Information Office:** FS and Cal Fire sponsoring steep terrain hazard fuel presentation at next SOFAR meeting. Week long demonstration on SPI land, and field trip opportunity. More info to come.

**John Heisenbuttel, CalAm:** South Fork Mokelumne \$500K grant prepared by Pat McGreevy. Cal Am submitting 3 grants to CCI program for about \$3M. CHIPS, Amador Fire Safe Council, Calaveras RCD are fiscal agents.

**Deb Phillips, Greater Valley Conservation Corps:** Call Deb if you want to hire 18-25 year olds. Will provide training on chain saws, CPR, etc. Working with Cal Trans, Stanislaus Forest, Miwok Ranger District, etc. Goal is to hire local youth and get them trained for local employment opportunities. Want more jobs in Calaveras County, will even consider volunteer work.

**Sue Holper, community member:** Americorp put in trees, 20% died, they are being replaced.

**Chuck Loffland, USFS Amador RD:** Scottiago project update: have most of reports in, most of NEPA done. Expect to work this summer.

**Laurence Crabtree, USFS:** agreement with **???** to share information on owls and fuels treatment; synchronize databases on spotted owl habitat. SPI, FS, ID gaps, etc.

**Gwen Starrett, ACCG:** Roads on Onion Meadow project a concern. Passed around sign up sheet for monitoring opportunities.

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	<p><b>Gordon Long, Calaveras RCD:</b> Cal Fauna Foundation has a project on cannabis' impact on deer – want to be interviewed? Public outreach grant. Focus on counties – do they consider deer when developing ordinances? Will produce 2 videos and a white paper. Illegal grows are the focus, not legal. Covers 32 California counties.</p> <p><b>Rich Farrington, AWA:</b> Master Stewardship Agreement with FS working on Hemlock, Pumpkin Hollow 25-50% done; Cabbage Patch got money from SNC; planning outreach to contractors. Haven't gotten enough local interest. Will have some meetings. UMWRA letter of support; Friday 1:30 Pardee UMWRA workshop re wild and scenic study at EBMUD facility.</p> <p><b>Scott Tangenberg, USFS, Calaveras:</b> Joe Aragon will be the ACCG coordinator for the Calaveras side, full time. 5N14 Road, Federal Highways has accepted to design and implement reroute of failed area of road.</p> <p><b>Robin Wall, USFS Amador RS:</b> NFWF Open House meeting was well attended and very successful. Thanks to all who participated.</p> <p><b>Trish Frazier, Mother Lode Job Training:</b> new grant received; money available for all 4 counties; for current employees of private and public agencies. Target is to train 100 people. Need industrial machinery or heavy equipment. She is point person, all in place by end of March. She's talking to ski areas; does not necessarily need to be for heavy equipment – just things of value to your organization. Will prioritize and find vendors to provide training. They pay for this.</p>
12	<p><b>Wrap up (Kleinfelter, 5 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lunch after the meeting at Mel's Diner: 31 Hwy 88, Jackson.</li><li>• Next meeting March 21, 2018</li></ul> <p><b>Location:</b> Veterans' Memorial Building, West Point, CA</p>
Meeting Adjourns at Noon	

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### 2018 Meeting Schedule:

Date and Location	Presentor	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 Sutter Creek Facilitator: E. Kleinfelter	Forest Service: Crabtree and Tangenberg	FS Perspectives
March 21 West Point Facilitator: Steve Wilensky	Shelly Blair, and Eric Kleinfelter, CA Fish & Wildlife	Wildlife-Human Interaction
April 18 Sutter Creek Facilitator: Reuben Childress		
May 16 West Point Facilitator: John Heissenbuttel	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 Sutter Creek Facilitator: Gwenn Starrett	Tom Black, SW Research Center	Power Fire Roads Assessment Using the GRAIP Road Inventory and Model. Note that Tom's bio and links to his research are posted to the ACCG web calendar for this date.
July 18 West Point Facilitator: Rick Hopson		
August 15 Sutter Creek Facilitator: Robin Wall	Dr. Hugh Safford	Natural Range of Variation for Yellow Pine and Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada

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September 19 West Point Facilitator: Katherine Evatt		
October 17 Sutter Creek Facilitator: Deb Phillips		
November 21 West Point Facilitator: Gordon Long		

*If you*

*for speakers, please email contact info to [JillMicheau@gmail.com](mailto:JillMicheau@gmail.com)*