Power Fire Reforestation Collaboration Survey Results

March 2018
Participation in ACCG Collaborative Process

14 responses

- ACCG Member (MOA signer) from private, business or nonprofit sector (43%)
- ACCG participant (not an MOA signer) from private, business or nonprofit sector (14%)
- Representative of ACCG member agency (Forest Service, BLM, etc.) (43%)
ACCG non-agency participation in planning process steps

Specific Feedback
- There was not an opportunity to participate in development of proposed action
- Would have liked to have more work put in up front. Resultant later conflicts created delays and hard feelings.
Was there enough time and background information to contribute to project development?

Non-agency
8 responses
- Yes: 88%
- No: 12%

Agency
6 responses
- Yes: 83%
- No: 17%
Were you satisfied with the amount of collaborative input into project planning?

Non-agency
8 responses

63% No
37% Yes

Agency
6 responses

83% Yes
17% No
Were your concerns expressed to project proponent?

**Non-agency**
- 8 responses
- 75% No
- 13% No Concerns
- 12% Yes

**Agency**
- 6 responses
- 83% No Concerns
- 17% Yes

**Specific Feedback:**
- Concerns were in timing of early collaborative inputs
Were your concerns resolved before PA published or were concerns incorporated in PA?

**Specific Feedback:**
- Exception was commitment to being able to monitor various planting/treatment alternatives
- It was partially resolved in post PA discussions
- Concerned about opposition to the project by some members of the group and reasons behind the opposition and how working relationships were impacted
If your concerns were not addressed in the proposed action, did the project proponent include them in an action alternative?

Specific Feedback:
- Yes, but that is the problem. The PA should be developed by the FS and ACCG together, and the other ACCG members should not be told they need to develop an alternative
- Only to a limited degree
If your concerns were addressed in an alternative, did the project proponent select that alternative in the final decision?

**Specific Feedback:**
- This was a pretty bad failure on the part of the FS, in my opinion. They encouraged the collaborative to come up with an alternative, which the collaborative did with the help of FS ecologists. Then the FS rejected it. It was a massive waste of time, money, and talent.
- Close, not complete = fair
- Participated in post-selection discussion
To what degree did you support the selected alternative?

**Non-agency**
- 8 responses
  - Supported all components: 50% (3 responses)
  - Supported most components: 38% (3 responses)
  - Supported some components: 12% (2 responses)

**Agency**
- 4 responses
  - Supported all components: 50% (2 responses)
  - Supported most components: 50% (2 responses)

**Specific Feedback:**
- I would have preferred more aggressive herbicide treatments but supported consensus.
- Still some heartburn over herbicides and density of planting.
After the decision, did you participate in the objection process?

Specific Feedback:

- In preparation of our representatives for the call and in preparation of objection letter. Included face to face negotiation with Forest Supervisor to resolve objection
- Good discussions made more difficult by ex post facto aspect
If you participated in objection process did you support the final ACCG pre-decision comment letter?

Specific Feedback:
• Wanted to keep group moving despite frayed relations.
Did you submit a separate comment letter?

- Yes: 38%
- No: 62%

If yes, did your letter support or oppose the proposed action?

- Supported all actions: 33%
- Supported some/most actions: 34%
- Opposed all actions: 33%
Do you believe the project proponent’s final decision adequately addressed ACCG member’s and participants’ concerns?

Specific Feedback:
- It was a very small concession by PA proponents
- Not everyone felt concerns were met
**Areas that could have been improved?**

- Early involvement in planning
- Proposed action reflects ACCG consensus
- Blindsiding USFS with continual demands that shouldn’t happen. Transparency by all should happen.
- USFS did an outstanding job of including ACCG throughout the process. Any conflicts were caused by intractable positions against the use of herbicides.
- Doesn’t capture issues
- I felt there was good information to contribute to background but not early enough in the process. Not satisfied with collaborative input in early phases of project planning but input was better in the end.
- Shorten NEPA process, memory if flexible
- Better understanding of project sideboards. Better understanding of negotiable vs. non-negotiable project components.
Opportunity to look at this to learn how we can improve

- Clear communication about expectations
  - Consistent note taker
- Involve the collaborative group early in the process during the development of the proposed action
- Keep an open mind
- If the collaborative is asked to develop an alternative rather than the PA, consider impacts on working relationships if the alternative may not be selected.
- Be clear up front on what the project sideboards are
  - Identify what are negotiable vs. non-negotiable project components
  - Identify what components the proponent wants to reach consensus on
- It may not just be non-agency staff that are not satisfied with the decision