**Location:   12200 Airport Road, Sutter Creek, Large Conference Room   
Meeting Facilitator: Reuben Childress  Minutes: Jill Micheau**

***Note: coding for minutes: Red text indicates a task; green text indicates something that has been completed; black text is for titles and headings; blue text is the notes taken during the meeting. If an item is highlighted, the scribe missed that item or did not understand it… please edit if you know what it is supposed to say.***

**Attendees: Robert Smith; Jacob Baker; Kevin Roberts; Ray Cablayan; Susan McMorris; Steve Wilensky; Sue Holper; Heidi Beswick; Gwen Starrett; Terry Woodrow; John Buckley; Ben Solvesky; Rick Hopson; Chuck Loffland; Rueben Childress; Jan Bray; Jay Francis; Rich Farrington; Gerald Schwartz; Tim Tate; Pat Mc Greevy; Jill Micheau**

| **Item #** | **Agenda Item** |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Call to order |
| 2 | Participants introductions – 34 attendees |
| 3 | Modification and/or approval of agenda and March minutes – accepted. Be sure SPI joining is included. |
| **Presentations and Business** | |
| 5 | **Presentation: Malcolm North, “Forest Canopy Cover and Spotted Owl Habitat”**  In a recently published study, scientists found that cover in tall trees is the key habitat requirement for spotted owl — not total canopy cover. It indicated that spotted owls largely avoid cover created by stands of shorter trees.  *Dr. North is a Research Forest Ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, and an Affiliate Professor of Forest Ecology, Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California, Davis.*  *Q: How to accelerate the transition of science to practitioners? Can tree markers do the science? He thinks so… learning curve, but not so complicated… they’ve spent lots of time in the forest; Can markers be taught to do this after next research step is complete? Yes, after next study/numbers are done. Study has not been done with northern spotted owl…* |
| 6 | **Power Fire Reforestation Collaborative Survey Results Discussion**  *This survey was discussed briefly at the last ACCG General meeting; Passed out survey for Power Fire and got better participation. Data presented…*  *May want to discuss again in future using professional facilitator. Thanks to Becky and Shana for pulling data together. Bottom Line: good process to see how people are thinking about the collaborative to give us ideas of how we can improve. Want ideas on how to make the collaborative better.*  *Comments: thanks to monitoring group; sample size too small; conflation between policy differences and personal feelings; careful in how we discuss these matters. More discussion up front make it all easier. Need some mediation on contentious issues to figure out what we can continue to do on the ground.*  *Foremost problem is NEPA… discuss again at another meeting. Need more participation in planning work.* ***Schedule for another meeting.*** |
| **Updates** | |
| 7 | **Forest Service Updates:**   * **Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration Project (Cablayan)** – *Alaina offered to stick around after meeting to answer questions and discuss the project’s process and progression. On February 28th there was a Planning WG field trip; 3100 acres; farm bill; scoping period started 3/28, ends 4/28; discussed plans, bark beetles, thinning and fuels treatment. Identifies ~1K acres timber for thinning; added 290 acres proposed treatment in PAC; area behind Mill Woods HOA hasn’t been treated for a long time; some treatment, some salvage, some thinning; field tech not there yet. Treatment proposed; implementation after wildlife survey is complete; still need archeological survey; waiting or specialists to complete surveys.* * **Forest Service provisions in new Federal Budget package (Hopson) – *Rick will send press releases, Jill will post to web****; includes a better process for funding wildfires; starts in 2020; special set aside for fighting fires; new CE for wildfire resilience; CE for prescribed fire? Good neighbor authority has been amended.*   *Here is a link to a brief article in the Washington Post that highlights budget impact on the Forest Service and National Parks:* [*https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/03/22/house-spending-bill-would-increase-funding-for-national-parks-and-wildfire-suppression/?noredirect=on&utm\_term=.9c22d8e3e103*](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/03/22/house-spending-bill-would-increase-funding-for-national-parks-and-wildfire-suppression/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.9c22d8e3e103)  **Secretary Sonny Perdue official photo.jpgUSDA has a new Secretary; see his bio here:** <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/our-secretary> *Sonny Perdue came by his knowledge of agriculture the old fashioned way: he was born into a farming family in Bonaire, Georgia.  From childhood, and through his life in business and elected office, Perdue has experienced the industry from every possible perspective.  Uniquely qualified as a former farmer, agribusinessman, veterinarian, state legislator, and governor of Georgia, he became the 31st United States Secretary of Agriculture on April 25, 2017.* |
| 8 | **Admin Work Group updates:**   * **Update on letters to Congress re recent budget and CFLR continued funding (Childress)** – *None of our guys voted for the bill; CFLR fully funded nationwide. Propose that we send letter to our representatives that we are grateful for the support. Admin WG will do this…* **Action Item**. * **Professional facilitation update (Evatt)** – *the Admin WG is recommending that we generate an RFP to provide to professional facilitation companies; let them make recommendations to us; does this work for people? Noted that we can use CFLR funds; keep the FS tied in loop; FS fully supportive of our use of professional facilitators. Some members prefer our current volunteer rotation facilitation; don’t want to lose function if we lose funding for facilitation. Train those interested to increase internal skills. It was noted that there is a difference between facilitation and consensus building; different levels; RFP will address planning WG issues too. Note that a very good article on this topic has been posted to the ACCG web at:* <http://acconsensus.org/2018/03/24/research-article-on-use-of-professional-facilitators-for-collaborative-groups/> |
| 9 | **Planning Work Group updates:**   * **Stanislaus NF Plan of Work discussion (Cablayan)** –*Stanislaus Plan of Work (POW): Last Chance Fuel Break, bid closed last week; Irish O’Manuel prescribed burn; considering 2nd farm bill on Calaveras side; not sure where; maybe Blue Mountain area; waiting for conditions to improve; Pumpkin Hollow waiting for conditions; same with timber sale; UMWRA putting together an RFP for Cabbage Patch; comment period open now.* * **UMWRA was pointed out in recent study** – *report has been posted to ACCG web and was emailed to all ACCG members on 4/19. Link to report:* [http://acconsensus.org/2018/04/19/new-report-improving-californias-forest-and-watershed-management/](http://acconsensus.org/2018/04/19/new-report-improving-californias-forest-and-watershed-management/%20) * **Next week ACCG Planning WG will host a field trip**; *will feature stops on BLM land, loggers in action, a prescribed burn in progress, shaded fuel breaks along a WUI, and will end at CHIPS. Full agenda and logistics are on the ACCG web here:* <http://acconsensus.org/event/special-planning-meeting-field-trip/?instance_id=1857> |
| 10 | **Monitoring Work Group update**   * **Socioeconomic monitoring WG status (Wall)** – *contract is still pending -- just waiting for signature.* |
| 11 | **Agency/organization updates (round table)**  **David Griffith, ABC** – *negotiated Good Neighbor Authority Agreement with FS; moving toward becoming a 501C3*  **Jay Francis, SPI** – *working on thinning projects, salvage; weather not clear yet; have been heavily focused on salvage because of beetles; created some holes out in forest; actively planting now; 18k trees just yesterday, same next 10 days; 2 crews of 11 people; they are paid per tree.*  **Steve Wilensky, CHIPS** – *BME in due diligence process to provide funding for plant; passed all proformas with one exception: PG&E lost at hearing; was ordered to sign power purchase agreement, but has signed yet and we are not a certain that they will. If PG&E does not sign, we want to assemble at PG&E HQ to present the agreement to get it signed -- demand compliance. Contact Steve if you wish to participate.* *CHIPS has a new agreement for more work in Yosemite; many new projects; includes cultural siting; great year for us.*  **Katherine Evatt, Foothill Conservancy** – *Events of note:*   * **May 8th** -- *To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Foothill Conservancy will host critically acclaimed, award-winning photographer and author, Tim Palmer in Jackson. Palmer will present a slide show of his new book, Wild and Scenic Rivers: An American Legacy. The event is open to the public. Suggested donation at the door, $10. We'll have wine and beer available for purchase. Tim Palmer’s books and Foothill Conservancy river merchandise will be available for purchase.* * **National River Rally**, *Hosted by River Network, April 29-May 2 at Olympic Valley (Tahoe) River restoration conference. Get more information and register here:* <https://www.rivernetwork.org/events-learning/river-rally/registration/> * **New study on Mokulumne River:*****get this from KE***   **Bill Haigh, BLM** – *New federal budget is kind to BLM; includes several $100,000s for fuels projects; will be spent in Moke watershed; will contribute some funds near Glencoe; to accelerate project in conjunction with SNC grant; Bummerville archeological study will be completed this month, so ready for NEPA; Jim Eicher retired; temporary detailer in; leased NEPA expert will work with us here; will bring her to ACCG meetings. Encourages all members to attend the field trip next week to see the work on Liligap; Bill may have jury duty, so may not be able to attend.*  **Michael Pickard, Sierra Nevada Conservancy** – *UMWRA and EMBUD projects funded; money available in June; both projects developed and supported by ACCG. There will be an award ceremony in Bishop on June 7th. Future grants: prop 68 on ballot June 5th; polls look positive; would give SNC $55M in grant funds; likely to have another grant round this summer regardless of prop 68 scope; might include only fuels reduction realm; new set of grant guidelines; Pre-applications will probably be due 9/1; Prop 1 are just for fuels reduction; if 68 passes, it provides funds to “fulfill our mission,” which includes outreach, education, recreation, etc. Will include planning grants; State CCI CalFire grants: forest health projects waiting for that list to show which pre apps were accepted; 3rd or 4th week of April; Fire prevention grants: new SRA grants for Fire Safe Councils; supposed to be out last Friday, want to have those apps in and accepted by June 30. Quick turnaround. Holdup may be because of CARB.*  *SB1463 would allocated 25% of annual GHG pool to the 10 counties in the Sierra designated as disaster areas for tree mortality; for wildfire prevention. You can read the bill here:* <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB1463>  **Jan Bray, CalAm** – *Progress on Tiger Creek coop; close collaboration with Forest Service, BLM, SPI, CalAm; to get fuel break to cross Mokulumne River.*  **Tim Tate, SPI** – *lumber market has been favorable; peaked in February; no change expected in market through 2019 or beyond*  **John Buckley, CSERC** – *has been doing tree planting, water sampling; is working with 4 collaborative groups*  **John Heissenbuttel, CalAm** – *Amador Fire Safe Council – Fuel break between Hwy 88 and Lake Taboo completed. Doing environmental work to extend it to Surrey Junction. Big project; PGE has given AFSC $137K grant for fuel reduction in Amador county.*  **Rick Hopson, Amador RD** – *Thanks for survey results – valuable input. Laurence Crabtree will be here next month; busy getting ready for summer contracts; lots of timber sales; NFWF projects all submitted, all under review; got ACCG supported projects in. Success last week on Otter Fire prescribed burn. Burned 2 units in 2 days, over 1300 acres; helicopter ignition; took advantage of weather.*  **Susan McMorris, BMCRC** – *Railroad Flat school will become a magnet school.*  **Ray Cablayan, Calaveras RD** – *Stanislaus has a Master Stewardship Agreement; Dennis Mills looking into having Calaveras County be part of that. Road issue will be taken over by ??? completed by end of year. Calaveras Master Stewardship Agreement coordinated parts with ACCG; Summit, Groveland, Miwok attached to YSS; Calaveras County would require a group like this.  Anyone from ACCG present in these MSA discussions? Will discuss in May.* **Put on agenda… get info from Ray.** *Should create a study session…* **Does Calaveras Board of Supervisors recognize ACCG?**  **Rich Farrington, UMWRA** – *Board meeting next Friday 1:30 at EBMUD; look for state report; encourages more Sierra watershed areas to be involved. Alpine, water agencies, EBMUD, all contributing; Pumpkin Hollow, Cabbage Patch, a few other projects, Black Springs; others will follow.* |
| 12 | **Wrap up**   * Networking lunch after meeting at **El Mira Mar Mexican Restaurant**, 11310 Prospect Dr, Jackson, CA 95642 (Close!) * Monitoring meeting this building, other conference room, 1:00 – 4:00 * Next meeting May 16, 2018 **Location:** Veterans’ Memorial Building, West Point, CA |
| **Meeting Adjourned at Noon** | |

Materials available on ACCG website:

* March minutes for review (to be approved at meeting) — [March 2018 ACCG General MINUTES FOR REVIEW](http://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/March-2018-ACCG-General-MINUTES-FOR-REVIEW.pdf)
* Agenda for today’s meeting: [April 2018 ACCG General Agenda FINAL](http://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/April-2018-ACCG-General-Agenda-FINAL.pdf)
* Stanislaus NF 2018-19 Plan of Work: [Calaveras Cornerstone Planned Projects\_FY18-FY19\_02092018](http://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Calaveras-Cornerstone-Planned-Projects_FY18-FY19_02092018.pdf)
* Link to Elsevier abstract of Dr. North’s study on spotted owl habitat: xxx
* Scoping letter for Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration Project: [Arnold\_Avery\_HFR\_2018\_Scoping\_Letter (1)](http://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Arnold_Avery_HFR_2018_Scoping_Letter-1.pdf)

# 2018 Meeting Schedule:

| **Meeting Date and Location** | **Presentor** | **Topic** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **May 16**West PointFacilitator: **J. Heissenbuttel** | Kevin VellaDistrict Biologist California/NevadaNational Wild Turkey Federation | 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 CreekFacilitator: **G. 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 PointFacilitator: **R. Hopson** |  |  |
| **August 15**Sutter CreekFacilitator: **R. Wall** | Dr. Hugh Safford | Natural Range of Variation for Yellow Pine and Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada |
| **September 19**West PointFacilitator: **K. Evatt** |  |  |
| **October 17**Sutter CreekFacilitator: **Deb Phillips** | Kevin Roberts, Biologist, SPI | Spotted Owl research |
| **November 21**West PointFacilitator: **Gordon Long** |  |  |

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