

**Amador Calaveras Consensus Group Planning Meeting**  
Amador Ranger District

July 25, 2018

**Participants:** (15 attendees)

Tracy Allen, Joe Aragon, Heidi Beswick, Rich Farrington, Liz Gregg, Rick Hopson, Paul Leusch, Chuck Loffland, Craig Ostergaard, Jessie Plummer, Ben Solvesky, Gwen Starrett, Tony Valdes, Robin Wall, and Marc Young

**Scottiago Hazard Tree Project** (Chuck Loffland)

- Projected to have contract awarded by end of FY18 with implementation expect spring 2019.

**Omo-North Hazard Tree Mark Review** (Rick Hopson)

- Rick Hopson provided handout summary of field work with several Eldorado staff to discuss the identified trees identified for removal.
- Ben requested that he and the ACCG Planning Group should have been invited to the field trip to understand the interpretation of the marking guidelines.
- Rick suggested a separate field trip will be offered to discuss hazard tree marking and applied to the Forest Health Project tree marking.
- . This field trip may not occur prior to the decision. However, this field trip will occur prior to the contract award.

• **Arnold Avery Project**

- Project implementation tentative for early 2019.
- Arnold Avery Project meeting offered to ACCG on July 10, 2018
- Decision Memo is currently in draft. Several points were identified for further discussion in the document:
  - The PAC perimeter to be redefined
  - Clear around oaks a definite need
  - Diameter tree limit for treatment, soft 16 and hard 24 diameter limit
  - Need to continue canopy cover treatment
- Ben inquired about stand data to support treatment longevity to help support the proposed 40% cover.
- Was there a fuels analysis completed for this project? Is it needed for a CE? Forest Service direction is to move toward CE projects in the future. This topic needs further discussion to gain better management of fuel treatment priority.

### **Scottiago Forest Health Project** (Rick Hopson)

- Possible more than one CE category applied to this project
- Specialist reports expected by end of 2018
- Expect project scoping by August 2018.
- Ben presented and discussed letter (*Strategically Treating Fuels in the Scottiago Project Area with Adjustments for the Highest Quality Spotted Owl Habitat*) sent to Amador Ranger District on April 12, 2018 from Foothill Conservancy, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, and Sierra Forest Legacy, are responding to the District's request for suggested strategies and conservation measures for the Scottiago Forest Health Project area.

### **Scottiago Forest Health Project Draft CE Document** (Marc Young)

- Draft proposed action document presented and discussed as a group to the scope and scale of the project

#### Purpose and Need comment/questions:

- Is there data to support a need to do additional stand thinning?

#### Project Activities comment/questions:

- What is the residual fuels after a skyline logging treatment?
- Consider a 2-5 acre multi canopy PAC pocket
- Similar language to use from the General Sherman Project?
- Recent discussions on other FS projects to retain tree diversity

#### Fuel Reduction comment/questions:

- Consider adding language of thinning the upper diameter trees (18") from 100 feet from road edge and 300 feet from staging area.
- Why 18" diameter tree selected? What is the purpose?
- Will treatment include shrubs from the road edge?
- Considering multiple CE categories in this project. Proposed to install fire camera and associated veg/harvest treatments discussions in about an 80 acres parcel to overlook the project area (near Ham's Station).

#### Treatments for Protection of Spotted Owl Habitat comment/questions:

- Suggestion to consider 14" dbh tree limit small tree removal
- Will the proposed treatment effect the canopy cover in the PACs?
- What is the acre estimate for mechanical treatment in PACs?
- What are the treatment priorities?
- Consider retaining clumps of larger trees of various shape, size and characteristics (roosting, nesting, foraging) up to an acre in size outside PACs and HRAs.

**General Meeting Comment and Suggestion:**

- Early field trip and early project dialogs are important processes to lead to an efficient collaborative discussion

**Member Updates:**

- Crosssection completed in Little Indian Valley for meadow restoration
- Fuels reduction and chipping continues along Hwy 88
- Monitoring transects placed at Upper Onion Valley meadows in prep for monitoring work days in September 2018
- View 88 timber project nearing completion
- Callecat is on-going and moving on next to Copycat and Foster Firs
- Herbicide treatment in the Power Fire Reforestation has been completed for the season
- SPI and Forest Service will coordinate fuels reduction projects including the Tiger Creek Coop Burn Project (SPI, USFS, BLM, CalFire)

**Follow-ups:**

- Send out hazard tree marking guidelines to Craig Ostergaard as discussed and applied with the Scottiago Forest Health Project.
- Craig Ostergaard to continue discussion and provide additional information at the next Planning meeting on the current spotted owl radio collar survey data collected on SPI lands near the Scottiago Forest Health Project area.
- Marc Young to send out Scottiago Forest Health Project stand data.
- Consider future field trip to discuss tree marking, clumps and treatment in clumps as follow-up discussion in Scottiago Forest Health Project Draft proposed action.

**Next ACCG Planning Meeting: August 22, 2018**

Meeting location and field trip TBD