*Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute*

# Meeting Brief

* Rick Hopson, Amador District Ranger, announced that Robin Wall, CFLR Coordinator for the Amador Ranger District (RD), has taken a 120-day detail in the Amador RD in the recreation program. She will continue administrative functions but will not be available to support ACCG working groups and attend meetings. Her detail ends in mid-June.
* Tania Carlone, Facilitator with the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), presented findings from stakeholder interviews CBI conducted in December and February and gave an overview of the timeline for CBI’s continuing work with the ACCG.
* The ACCG considered two letters of support for the Three Meadows Project and Species Inventories in the Power Fire Nexus Area.
* The ACCG formed two ad hoc committees to: 1) discuss a strategy and develop a proposal for how to address the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s road policy; and, 2) clarify the information request for the disposition of Power Fire funding.
* The Monitoring Work Group agreed to take the lead in initiating a landscape mapping and planning exercise to facilitate coordination among project proponents, identify gaps, and inform future project activities that align with funding opportunities.

# Action Items

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| **Actions** | **Responsible Parties** |
| Submit revisions for 1/24/19 ACCG meeting notes to Tania Carlone, Regine Miller, and Jill Micheau for posting to the ACCG website. | Katherine Evatt |
| In light of Robin Wall’s 120-day recreation detail, add Rick Hopson to the Admin Work Group (WG) to ensure WG participation from the Amador RD. | Regine Miller |
| Invite national CFLR coordinator to meet with ACCG (in coordination with Joe Aragon and Rick Hopson). | Tania Carlone Regine Miller |
| Link *Three Meadows* project Letter of Support (LOS) to meeting summary and email signed letter to Gwen Starrett. | Regine Miller |
| Link *Species Inventories in Power Fire Nexus Area* project to meeting summary, follow up with Tim Tate regarding any concerns, and send signed LOS to Alissa Fogg. | Regine Miller |
| Meet to discuss how to manage new administrative task agreement and report back to the ACCG. | Rick HopsonSteve WilenskyKatherine Evatt |
| Link Sierra Nevada Conservancy Road Policy letter submitted by the ACCG to meeting summary. | Regine Miller |
| Convene ad hoc road policy committee consisting of Steve Wilensky, John Heissenbuttel, Jan Bray, Pat McGreevy and Rich Farrington and report back at April ACCG meeting. Place broader topic of road restoration activities on April ACCG general meeting agenda. | John Heisenbuttel Regine Miller |
| Admin WG coordinate mapping exercise with Monitoring WG to clarify the protocols of the information/file format request to ACCG member entities. | Michael PickardRegine Miller |
| Form ad hoc committee to discuss information request/final products associated with disposition of Power Fire funding. | Katherine EvattRick HopsonRich Farrington |
| **Note to the ACCG:** The Admin WG creates meeting agendas for the general meeting on the 2nd Monday of the month, 10 days before meetings. If you have items to include on the agenda, please get them to Regine Miller before that meeting at regine.chips@gmail.com. | All |

## Modification of January 2019 Meeting Notes

Katherine Evatt indicated that she has edits to the meeting notes which she will submit to Tania Carlone and Regine Miller. Once the updates are complete, Jill Micheau will post the final January meeting notes to the ACCG website.

## Presentations, Discussions and Business

**Amador Ranger District Announcement:** Rick Hopson announced that Robin Wall will be on special assignment for a 120-day detail in the recreation program. There is no immediate solution to who will serve as CFLR coordinator for the Amador Ranger District (RD). Agreements for payments and other administrative functions will continue as-is. However, coordination for the Planning Work Group (WG) and Robin’s staff time to attend meetings will be affected. Her detail ends in mid-June.

**Meeting Process Agreements:** Tania Carlone, Facilitator, reviewed meeting guiding principles and requested feedback from meeting participants, noting that Planning WG members’ input from their 11/28/18 meeting has already been incorporated into the following principles.

* **Commit to Learning:** Attempt to approach discussions with curiosity. Ask how, why, what and offer open- ended questions.
* **Listen Actively:** without interrupting & with an ear towards understanding; avoid side conversations that make it difficult to maintain attention and focus.
* **Participate:** in ways that encourage ALL VOICES to be heard (“step-up/step-back”).
* **Seek Clarification:** Suspending judgement while clarifying meaning & intent.
* **Offer Alternatives/Options/Make Requests:** that strive for mutual gain (meet your interests while keeping the interests of others in mind.

**Discussion on Process Agreements:**

* When ACCG members are not present for important topics, it is essential to reach out between meetings to exchange information and remain current on ACCG activities in order to move forward.
* It is difficult for those who miss meetings to stay informed because there aren’t official meeting notes for working group and special meetings. This can create a breakdown in communications, suggesting the need to have written notes from all meetings.
* Meeting participants highlighted the importance of gaining clarification to understand each other’s intent and acknowledged that a few voices can dominate discussions, underscoring the need to invite participation from a more diverse group of voices, including younger participants.

**Stakeholder Assessment Findings:** Tania presented high level findings from stakeholder interviews conducted in December and February (<http://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CBI-Preliminary-Assessment-Findings_2-20-19_v1.pdf>) and specified the timeline for completion of the assessment as follows.

**Three Meadows Project Implementation:** Gwen Starrett presented a Letter of Support (LOS) (<http://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ACCG-LOS-Three-Meadows-Implementation.pdf>) for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) implementation grant application for an implementation grant. She has provided several updates to the ACCG general membership and Planning WG. The project includes partial filling of incised meadows, constructed riffles and log weirs, road work and temporary fencing. The Amador Resource Conservation District is the grant applicant. The project was initiated through ACCG members. The ACCG approved the LOS. The Amador RD recused themselves from the consensus vote because they are reviewing the projects and the Foothill Conservancy abstained because the organization does not endorse grant applications. Regine will email the signed letter to Gwen.

**Species Inventories in Power Fire Nexus Area:** Alissa Fogg presented a request for a LOS (<http://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ACCG-Letter-of-Support-Species-Inventories-in-Power-Fire-Nexus-Area.pdf>) for a NFWF grant application. The project’s purpose is to inventory special status species in aquatic habitats in the Power Fire area including in meadows, ponds, lakes, and stream corridors. The project would survey for amphibians including Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, non-natives, willow flycatcher, and recording units for bat species. Results will help inform NEPA assessments, project priorities and priorities for habitat management. The project proposes to hold a workshop with ACCG members and to invite high elevation ranchers and rangeland experts to a workshop and field tour to develop adaptive grazing management strategies to allow for restoration. Results would be presented at a Planning WG meeting. Alissa clarified that the researchers are aware of existing foothill yellow-legged frog surveys. The ACCG approved the LOS, pending reservations expressed by Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI). Alissa will work with Tim Tate of SPI on issues related to the footprint and impact of the effort on SPI lands. Regine will confirm that SPI supports the LOS and then email a signed LOS to Alissa.

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Road Policy Discussion:** John Heisenbuttel, Pat McGreevy, and Rich Farrington led a discussion explaining that SNC’s watershed restoration grant program does not allow for road restoration to prevent erosion. Pat asserted that:

* Road restoration and road work are a major cause of erosion and sedimentation in watersheds; road maintenance is an essential restoration component that needs to be addressed.
* The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) relies on roads to service forested lands.
* Cal Fire and USFS rely on roads for access to fire suppression.

John explained that he wrote a letter (<http://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/1-21-2019-ACCG-letter-to-SNC-re-Road-Work-Restrictions.pdf>) that Jill Micheau signed and sent to SNC to clarify if the road policy was derived from statutory limitations, part of the State implementation guidelines, or internal SNC grant program policy. SNC responded with a letter (<http://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2-5-2019-SNC-Response-letter-to-ACCG_Road-Repair.pdf>) explaining that the road policy was an internal policy. Now that the source of the policy is understood, John asked if the ACCG wants to lobby SNC to change the policy to allow road restoration activities to be funded through their watershed restoration grant program. The ACCG supported the formation of an ad hoc team to develop a proposal for how to address this issue and to bring it back to the ACCG for discussion in addition to holding a broader conversation on the topic at the ACCG April general meeting. Meeting participants agreed that it would be useful to attend the SNC March 6th Board of Directors Meeting to make public comment since individual entities’ projects are put at risk because of this policy. In addition to engaging SNC, approaching the Governor’s Forest Management Task Force would be important since there are some apparent inconsistencies between state efforts on the topic. An ACCG member also encouraged engaging the Amador and Calaveras Boards of Supervisors and the Board of Forestry on the topic as well as reaching out to other collaboratives, such as the SOFAR Cohesive Strategy to gauge their support to work on the same issue. In order to engage other collaboratives, SCALE may be the appropriate venue to address this issue. It will also be important to engage those groups that are likely to oppose such an effort. Ad hoc committee members include: John Heissenbuttel, Pat McGreevy, Jan Bray, Rich Farrington, and Steve Wilensky.

# UPDATES

## Admin Work Group Update

**Contract for ACCG Administrative Services:** The Forest Service, CHIPS and Foothill Conservancy (FC) will meet to discuss how best to manage contracting for administrative services as a result of a change in administration for the group and will report back to the ACCG.

**Follow up on Mapping/Planning Exercise:** Katherine Evatt reminded meeting participants that the ACCG expressed interest last November to develop a master map illustrating completed, current and planned project activities across the ACCG landscape. The purpose of the mapping exercise is to facilitate coordination among project proponents, to help identify and analyze gaps, and to inform future priority actions and to maximize available funding opportunities. The ACCG agreed that the Monitoring WG could take the lead on the effort in coordination with Regine Miller and Michael Pickard. Michael will coordinate with Becky Estes to place this topic on an upcoming Monitoring WG’s agenda in order to clarify the approach and establish protocols for requesting maps and other relevant data from ACCG member entities.

**Power Fire Settlement Distribution:** Katherine Evatt suggested that some members of the ACCG would like to receive the original business plan and an accounting of how funds were spent from the $45 million PG&E-USFS settlement, as well as what funds remain with NFWF. Rick noted that the information request is substantial and would likely take some time. The ACCG formed an ad-hoc committee comprised of Rich, Katherine, and Rick to clarify what information the ACCG would like to receive.

## Planning Work Group Update

Joe Aragon gave an overview of the last Planning Work Group meeting which took place on 11/28/18. At the meeting, the WG refined ACCG meeting ground rules and conducted a review related to the Arnold Avery Project development process. Meetings with the Stanislaus Forest Supervisor associated with Arnold Avery are ongoing. The next Planning WG meeting will take place at the Amador Ranger District on February 27. The meeting will focus on the Scottiago project.

## Monitoring Work Group Update

**Upcoming Work Group Presentations:** At the March general meeting the Monitoring WG will present monitoring accomplishments, discuss scenario planning as well as talk about the meadow prioritization tool. Additionally, the Monitoring Work Group needs to consider how monitoring will be accomplished without CFLR funding.

**Socioeconomic Work Group:** The WG will conduct interviews as planned and present findings at a future ACCG general meeting.

## Round Table

**El Dorado National Forest Update:** Laurence Crabtree, Forest Supervisor, reported that ranger stations will be merged and consolidated to work more efficiently. There are currently 50 vacancies on El Dorado NF. The NF have turned over campgrounds to a new concessionaire because USFS cannot hire people to manage the campgrounds. Laurence encouraged ACCG members to view the map on the El Dorado NF’s webpage (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/eldorado/home/?cid=FSEPRD589531&width=full>) illustrating the proposed consolidation of ranger districts to understand how the consolidation will affect the Amador Ranger District.

**Appreciation for Robin Wall:** ACCG members recognized Robin Wall for the substantial work she has done as the CFLR Coordinator for the Amador RD. She was thanked for the wonderful service she has provided the ACCG. She has compiled annual reports, handled contracting, worked with every WG and has been an incredible resource. The entire group thanks her and wishes her success in her new position.

**The meeting was followed by a lunch celebrating the ACCG’s 10th anniversary!**

# Meeting Participants

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| **Name** | **Affiliation** |
| Steve Wilensky | CHIPS |
| Jay Francis | Sierra Pacific Industries |
| Terry Woodrow | Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Calaveras FSC  |
| Pat Knoll | Earth Day Amador Committee |
| Suzanne McMorris | Blue Mountain Renewal Council |
| Bob Fine | Land Clearing and Mastication Contractor |
| John Heissenbuttel | Cal Am, Amador FSC |
| Joe Aragon | Calaveras Ranger District (Stanislaus NF), CFLR Coordinator |
| Heidi Beswick | Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center |
| Liz Gregg | Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center |
| Daniel Smith | Motherlode Job Training Center |
| Rick Lande | Calaveras Ranger District (Stanislaus NF) |
| Alaina Osimowitz | Calaveras Ranger District (Stanislaus NF) |
| Brady McIlroy | Calaveras Ranger District (Stanislaus NF) |
| Rich Farrington | Amador WA and UMRWA |
| Michael Pickard | Sierra Nevada Conservancy |
| Monte Kawahara | Bureau of Land Management Motherlode Field Office |
| Mo Loden | Alpine Watershed Group |
| Regine Miller | CHIPS, ACCG Administrator |
| Becky Estes | USFS Central Sierra Province Ecologist |
| Alissa Fogg | Point Blue Conservation Science |
| Gwen Starrett | ACCG Member |
| Jan Bray | Cal Am |
| David Griffith | Alpine Biomass Collaborative |
| Scott Tangenberg | Deputy Forest Supervisor, Stanislaus NF |
| Katherine Evatt | Foothill Conservancy |
| Laurence Crabtree | Forest Supervisor, El Dorado NF |
| Tim Tate | Sierra Pacific Industries |
| Robin Wall | Amador Ranger District, El Dorado NF |
| Pat McGreevy | Cal Am |
| Sue Goldfield |  |
| Deb Phillips | Greater Valley Conservation Corps |
| Gerald Schwartz | EBMUD |
| Rick Hopson | District Ranger, Amador Ranger District (El Dorado NF) |
| Sarah Matthews | Bureau of Land Management, Motherlode Field Office |
| Ray Cablayan | District Ranger, Calaveras Ranger District (Stanislaus NF) |
| Sue Holper | ACCG Member |
| Tania Carlone | Facilitator, Consensus Building Institute |