**Instructions:** Complete this form when seeking project support from the ACCG. Before completing this form, please review the ACCG Project Development & Approval Process (link to flowchart here) and ACCG Project Endorsement Guidelines (link to document). Do not hesitate to contact the ACCG Administrator with any questions: Regine Miller, regine.chips@gmail.com.

Submission Date: 6/10/2019

Project Name: 2019 Power Fire Pre-Commercial Thinning Project

Organization making request: US Forest Service, Eldorado NF, Amador RD

Project Proponent Contact (name, phone, and email address): Marc Young, (209) 295-5955, mdyoung@fs.fed.us

Committed Project Partners:

Grant Program (if applicable):

Name and address to who the Letter of Support from the ACCG should be addressed:

Marc Young (marc.young@usda.gov ) or:

Richard Hopson, District Ranger

26820 Silver Drive

Pioneer, CA 95666

Due Date for Letter of Support: 6/28/2019

Project Budget Total Amount: N/A

Project Dollar Amount Being Requested through Grant Program (if applicable): N/A

Has this project been presented to the ACCG before? If so, when?

Yes, presented to Planning Work Group on March 27th and April 24th, 2019.

Describe the environmental, social, and local economic benefits of this project. Reference ACCG’s Principles and Policies to Guide Operations. (link to document here).

This primary goal of this project is to provide a healthy growing forest into the future for multiple resource benefits. By controlling tree densities at a relatively early age in the life of the stands, trees will grow faster and develop into mature conifer stands much sooner than if left alone. The numerous environmental benefits of mature conifer stands include wildlife habitat, resiliency to wildfire and carbon sequestration. The short term social and economic benefits include work opportunities for local contractors or partners such as CHIPS. The project area is over 11,000 acres and it is estimated that the work would span out over approximately 10 years. There is opportunity for both mechanical operations as well as hand work diversifying the type of contractors that may be able to do the work.

Longer term economic benefits include merchantable timber products and associated employment with harvesting and transporting.

Provide a brief written summary of the project:

Specify the existing condition of the landscape, the purpose and need for the project, any work that is planned, the acreage and location for that work, and describe any actions that could potentially be controversial among ACCG members.

Throughout the perimeter of 2004 Power Fire there exists young conifer stands in varying stages of development. In some planted areas, conifer plantations exist with tree densities that would lead to overcrowding and trees that are at higher risk to insects and disease. In addition there are areas that have naturally regenerated that are overcrowded and in some cases have high proportions of shade tolerant species such as incense cedar and white fir. Trees growing in these conditions are exhibiting slow growth rates due to competition for resources such as water and sunlight.

The Amador Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest proposes to pre-commercially thin about 11,354 acres of mixed-conifer plantations and natural regeneration in the following manner:

1. Competing conifer seedlings and saplings will be felled with chainsaws, other hand tools (5,725 acres), or ground based mechanical equipment such as a masticator (5,629 acres). Cut trees may be bucked (lopped) and scattered, chipped, or piled and burned.
2. About 110 to 150 desirable conifer saplings will be retained per acre (17 by 17 to 20 by 20 foot average spacing). The lower branches of these trees may be pruned.
3. Existing hardwood clumps and individuals may be cut, thinned and/or pruned as needed to release desirable hardwoods. The ratio of hardwoods to conifers would not be decreased.
4. Woody shrubs (i.e., manzanita, deerbrush, whitethorn, etc.) may be cut as needed in conjunction with treatment of conifers and hardwoods.

Potential Controversy: Issues that have been raised by members of the planning group include, lack of heterogeneity in plantations as well as a need to introduce prescribed fire. These issues have been resolved at the planning group level.

Describe desired outcomes/future conditions that the project achieves/supports:

This project supports the development of healthy mature conifer stands that could produce multiple resource benefits including timber production, wildlife habitat and a landscape more resilient to both wildfire and prescribed fire.

Describe status of environmental documentation (NEPA/CEQA/other):

The proposed action was sent out for public scoping on May 22, 2019. It is anticipated that a Decision Memo for a categorical exclusion would be signed in July 2019.

Attach project map and any other supporting documentation that would enhance the ACCG’s understanding of the project.