

# Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

## *ACCG Request for Project Support Submission Form*

**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](mailto:regine.chips@gmail.com).

Submission Date: 9/4/2019

Project Name: Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Habitat Restoration and Defense Project

Organization making request: Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions

Project Proponent Contact (name, phone, and email address):

Steve Wilensky, (209) 419-1919, [stevedwilensky@gmail.com](mailto:stevedwilensky@gmail.com)

Committed Project Partners: US Forest Service, Eldorado NF, Amador RD and the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA)

Grant Program (if applicable): Wildlife Conservation Board

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

Mr. Judah Grossman  
Wildlife Conservation Board  
C/o California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Due Date for Letter of Support: 10/1/2019

Project Budget Total Amount: ~\$2.8MM

Project Dollar Amount Being Requested through Grant Program (if applicable): \$2MM

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

In part, meaning two of the five NEPA decisions have been presented to the ACCG.

There have been a series of discussions on two of the NEPA decisions: the Power Fire Pre-commercial Thinning Project Decision Memo (2019) and Power Fire Reforestation Record of Decision/Environmental Impact Statement (2015-2017).

Of the three other decisions, the View 88 Decision Notice/Environmental Assessment (2011) was prior to the Eldorado NF's ACCG involvement, and the Power Fire Road Hazard Tree Categorical Exclusion and Power Fire Road Maintenance Categorical Exclusion (2016) were not brought before the ACCG.

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Describe the environmental, social, and local economic benefits of this project. Reference ACCG's Principles and Policies to Guide Operations.

The environmental benefits include protecting and contributing to the development of new wildlife habitat including protected activity centers (PACs) for the California spotted owl and northern goshawk which require moderate to dense forest canopy for nesting and foraging, reducing the extent and severity of wildfires, reducing the potential for watershed and surface water quality degradation thereby helping to protect aquatic habitat and species, and reducing uncontrolled air emissions, and creating a landscape that is more resilient to wildfire.

Economic benefits include creating work opportunities for local contractors using innovative contracting mechanisms through CHIPS. Work opportunities will help to establish a local forest restoration and stewardship economy, potentially benefiting disadvantaged communities. This project aligns with the Mokelumne Avoided Cost Analysis which evaluated the costs and benefits of fuel treatments in the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed and was undertaken with support from Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy, the Forest Service, and the ACCG.

Social benefits include helping to creating fire safe communities, facilitating safe ingress/egress, allowing faster suppression access thereby minimizing fire damage and reducing the potential number of PACs and acres of suitable habitat impacted, protecting downstream water quality, supply, reliability and infrastructure, and helping to lift residents of local communities out of poverty through new work opportunities.

The project area is approximately 1,200 acres. Implementation is estimated span approximately 3 years.

Provide a brief written summary of the project:

Within the ACCG planning area, many forest health projects have been implemented on private, federal, and industrial lands creating a landscape scale restoration approach in the area surrounding the proposed project. This project complements ACCG principles and projects, and supports restoration beyond CFLRA funding by leveraging partnerships to help increase the pace and scale of forest restoration.

The proposed scope of work includes:

- 1) Post fire reforestation of 300 acres through tree planting and inter-planting in groups and individually, utilizing local microsite conditions to increase heterogeneity;
- 2) Thinning of 900 acres of post fire natural stands and young mixed conifer plantings in line with PSW GTR 220 and 237, to speed post fire recovery by decreasing competition and increasing growth rates;

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- 3) Reduction and maintenance of hazardous fuels along 100 miles of strategic roads totaling approximately 600 acres, and;
- 4) Restoration of 8-12 acres of remnant aspen stands using temporary fencing to prevent damage to young aspen sprouts from browsing animals, support sapling vigor and age class diversification, and creating valuable wildlife habitat.

Potential Controversy: Issues that have been raised by members of the planning group include, the spatial arrangement of the reforestation planting density, herbicide use and lack of mechanical treatment for the Power Fire Reforestation project. The final record of decision for the Power Fire Reforestation EIS was modified to include language provided by the ACCG, and the objection was withdrawn.

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 wildlife habitat, a landscape more resilient to both wildfire and prescribed fire, and timber production.

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

Completed. Applicable decision documents include:

- View 88 Decision Notice/Environmental Assessment,
- Power Fire Road Hazard Tree Categorical Exclusion,
- Power Fire Road Maintenance Categorical Exclusion,
- Power Fire Pre-commercial Thinning Project Decision Memo, and
- Power Fire Reforestation Project Record of Decision/Environmental Impact Statement.

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

Decision documents are available upon request.