# Meeting Brief

* The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Central California District Manager, Chris Heppe, introduced himself to the ACCG.
* The Eldorado National Forest (NF) Amador Ranger District Ranger Detailer, Linda Wadleigh, introduced herself to the ACCG.
* Tania Carlone presented the draft ACCG Outreach, Communication, and Engagement Plan which the group then discussed and provided input on.
* The work groups provided expanded updates on their activities.

# Action Items

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| **Actions** | **Responsible Parties** |
| Send suggested revisions to DRAFT August meeting summary to Regine and Tania. | Rich Farrington |
| Revise the DRAFT August general meeting summary as per Rich Farrington, then submit with October general meeting agenda for the group’s review. | Regine Miller |
| Post the ACCG YouTube channel on the website home page. | Jill Micheau |
| Send MOA signature letters to Regine Miller by October 16th. | All interested parties |
| Distribute an email to the group providing a list of those who have signed onto the revised MOA. | Regine Miller |
| Ask TuCARE to share the Hemlock Project field trip video documentation with the ACCG before it is finalized. | Randy Hanvelt |
| Administrative Work Group to discuss:   * People/entities who sign onto the MOA simply because they support the concept of ACCG and participate in name only. * Existing external media policy and possible revisions (currently included in the draft ACCG outreach, communications, and engagement plan discussions). | Administrative Work Group |

# Summary

## Modification and/or approval of agenda and August 2020 Meeting Summary.

## Gwen Starrett stated the Monitoring Work Group (WG) postponed their September meeting due to the power outage, so they have nothing to report at today’s meeting. She asked to remove the Monitoring WG update from the agenda. This change was made and the agenda was confirmed.

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## Rich Farrington stated there were significant points missed in the August general meeting summary, as it related to Dr. Stephens’ presentation, which he will send to Regine and Tania. Regine will distribute the revised draft summary in next month’s meeting packet for review and approval.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS**

**Introduction to the new Bureau of Land Management Central California District Manager, Chris Heppe.**

Chris Heppe acknowledged the work the ACCG is doing and the importance of it. Chris shared that he grew up in Nevada County, and went on to attend UC Davis then served in the Peace Corps performing agroforestry projects. Chris returned to the States, worked for several federal agencies including the US Forest Service and US Environmental Protection Agency. He also worked for the National Park Service performing watershed restoration in Redwood National Park. Chris worked for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) beginning ten years ago as the Headwaters Forest Reserve Manager in Arcata. He became the Assistant Field Manager in Arcata before coming to work as the Central California District Manager. The District covers 2.2 million acres of public land from Monterey Bay to Ukiah, encompassing five field offices including the California Coastal Management, Coast Range, Bakersfield, Mother Lode, and Bishop. The District is diverse with a full range of activities and uses, including forestry, grazing, energy development, and fire protection. Chris particularly enjoys BLM’s scattered land ownership which allows for BLM to engage with its neighbors, particularly on landscape level projects, to achieve the agency’s mission through collaboration. He highlighted that collaboration is a great way to conduct business and to achieve shared objectives in forestry and watershed health. Chris recently visited the South Fork Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration project area where he observed hand thinning and mastication, and shared in the passion for the work with the project proponents and community. Chris appreciated that the ACCG’s strategic plan supports strengthening the local economy, and that there is opportunity with BLM lands as it relates to recreation and forest products. He underscored the importance of monitoring restoration treatments, gleaning lessons learned, and applying science. He was glad to see the traditional ecological knowledge panel on the ACCG’s speaker schedule, and stated that there is much to learn and incorporate about how we manage our landscapes. He went on to state that the relationships between BLM and private landowners are critical. He likes the idea of developing a community forest to integrate forest stewardship with economic and sustainable development aspects of how we live with our landscapes. He invited the group to reach out to him and invited questions.

* Rich Farrington: The last few presenters to the ACCG have emphasized the need for faster and more forest restoration work to create fire resilient and healthy forests. The NEPA process can be a barrier to accelerating pace and scale. He asked Chris if he has a strategy to accelerate pace and scale through the NEPA process.

Chris agreed on the need to increase pace and scale. He said treatments need to be more aggressive in terms of shaded fuel breaks while at the same time being careful in treating them. In terms of NEPA, he emphasized the importance of public involvement in the process. He went on to share that statewide there is a programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) that has been adopted for roadside thinning to reduce fire hazard. This EA tool could be used within the ACCG area. There is the possibility that there may be more resources to conduct preventative activities as a result of the recent wildfires, which could help to increase pace and scale.

* Steve Wilensky: CHIPS works with a number of tribes in California, ranging from the Paiute to Mono, who have been relegated to small allotments located adjacent to BLM lands that were ancestral lands. Steve shared that he has often wondered, since many of the tribes have restoration crews that are working federal and private lands, what is the efficacy of having those same tribal crews work on ancestral lands owned by BLM. Steve asked two question: 1) Does Chris see ways to expedite and help jointly fund projects in and around native tribal communities, and; 2) Does Chris see any long-term prospects to repatriate lands to the tribal groups? Steve offered to provide Chris a map that the Intertribal Council of California prepared showing the location of tribal lands in relation to BLM lands.

Chris replied that in northwest California, BLM made a number of arrangements, including some with the Hoopa. The Hoopa performed thinning on BLM lands that were in close proximity to tribal lands. With regard to the repatriation of tribal lands, Chris acknowledged that it is a tricky topic. There are more examples of collaborative management and not so much on the repatriation of land. Chris added that the Intertribal Basket Weavers of California are also working to harvest materials from BLM lands.

**Introduction to Acting Amador District Ranger, Linda Wadleigh.**

Linda Wadleigh began by expressing her appreciation to Rick Hopson, Robin Wall and Chuck Loffland for sharing with her information about the District, the ACCG, and the work being conducted in the area. She hopes to enjoy a couple of solid months working on her detail, has explored the District a bit and looks forward to doing it more once the forest re-opens.

Linda stated she is a District Ranger in northern Arizona that is all ponderosa pine. She has worked for the Forest Service as a fire ecologist and a fuels specialist, and has fought fires in California. Linda shared that the current forest closure extends through September 21st, and that it could then be lifted or possibly extended. She reported that there are currently 31,000 firefighters deployed in California.

* Steve Brink: The forest closure speaks to having specific exemptions to the order. The order specifies the contractor has to have written authorization to enter the forest to do the contracted work, following the Project Activity Level (PAL). Steve asked what is an acceptable written authorization. He explained that for every vehicle and log truck to carry a contract is prohibitive. Steve is curious what the Forest Service is doing to provide authorization to logging contractors.

Linda replied that she hopes the written authorization can be as simple as a letter from the Forest Supervisor and will check on that for Steve then get back to him.

**Presentation and Discussion:** [**DRAFT ACCG Outreach, Communication, and Engagement Plan**](https://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/03-DRAFT-ACCG-Communication-and-Engagement-Plan-2020-09-01.docx)**.**

Tania Carlone recapped the draft ACCG Outreach, Communication and Engagement plan and reviewed the cover letter transmittal. She explained that the Collaborative Engagement Strategy Strategic Element (SE) called for the development of an outreach plan which focused on local ACCG communities and stakeholders as well as landscape collaboratives, agencies, organizations, tribal entities, and the general public. The plan is intended to serve as a broad-based way to conduct outreach, communication and engagement related to ACCG’s activities.

Tania stated that the draft plan aligns with and reinforces links to ACCG’s foundational and updated documents. She explained that the focus of this initial discussion is for the Admin Work Group to get a sense of the group’s initial impressions of the overall plan approach and framework, and their assessment of whether or not the plan is aligned with the main purpose as described in the SE #4. She asked the group for input on the overall framework of the document and on *Appendix A. Summary Table of Target Audiences and Engagement Purposes* to identify possible target audiences.

* Gwen Starrett: Gwen stated that the effort is very important because few people know about the ACCG. She suggested that it may be useful to identify immediate communications and engagement needs such as ensuring that information and presentations are easily located on the website. She recommended embedding the ACCG youtube.com channel on the website homepage.

The Admin WG has expressed an interest in ongoing refinement of the website and appreciated this helpful input. Tania suggested including in the plan the [ACCG Resources and Key Documents](https://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/ACCG-Resources-and-Key-Docs-Aug-2020-1.pdf) one-pager that Regine Miller and Jill Micheau prepared. Tania then gave an overview of Appendix A and asked for input on example audiences and recommended persons/groups who might lead engagement.

* Steve Wilensky: Steve stated that people who are responsible for roads [e.g., Community Service Areas (CSAs; don’t have funding) and Community service districts (do have funding)], and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) should be included and that the ACCG should attend their meetings. He added that there are two televised meetings with the Amador and Calaveras County Boards of Supervisors (BOS), that would afford the ACCG an opportunity for a 3 to 4-minute presentation. Steve recommended the ACCG provide updates to the BOS each meeting. He also explained that local television and independent radio stations could do features or community service announcements about the ACCG. Steve listed additional groups for inclusion in the table: Cattlemen’s Association, Calaveras Grown, County Farm Bureaus, County Farm Advisors, fly fisher groups, river rafting companies (e.g., OARS), Calaveras Band of Miwuk Indians, Hung-A-Lel-Ti of Southern Washoe, Tuolumne Band of Miwuk Indians, Blue Mountain Coalition for Youth and Families, Blue Mountain Radio KQBM, Unitarian Universalist in the Ebbetts Pass area, and Indian Manpower.
* Katherine Evatt: Katherine added to the list: UC Davis Cooperative Extension, Cal Trout, Amador Flyfishers, Delta Flyfishers, CABY and T-Stan Integrated Regional Water Management Groups (IRWM), Jackson Rancheria Band of Miwok Indians, Buena Vista Band of Miwuk Indians, Wilton Rancheria Miwuk Indians, Shingle Springs Band of Miwuk Indians, Indian Basket Weavers Association, cattle allotment holders, Pacific Watershed Forest and Land Stewardship Council, high school environmental clubs, Interfaith Power and Light, St. Katherine Drexel Parish.
* Sue Holper: Sue added: Mountain Ranch Youth Alliance and Resource Center.
* Chuck Loffland: Chuck added: Mountain Store in Sutter Creek, Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI), Trout Unlimited, California Deer Association, Amador County Recreation Agency (ACRA), four-wheel drive clubs, and high school Forestry Challenge Teams (through the FFA program).
* Emily Graham: Emily shared: Amador County Rapid Transit, the Amador and Calaveras County Fairground CEOs, Americorps, California Conservation Corp for Youth, Visitors Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce, Black Chasm Caverns, Moaning Caverns, Ebbetts Pass sporting goods stores, Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch, the Sierra Nevada Adventure Company, and area schools. Emily shared that Martin Huberti is the director of the Calaveras Visitors Bureau and Film Commission, and is a potential, well-connected resource.
* Rich Farrington: Rich shared that UMRWA funds a Stewardship Through Education program.
* John Heissenbuttel: John asked the group what is the value proposition to the folks that have been listed, and is the ACCG okay with people sign onto the MOA simply because they support the concept of ACCG and participate in name only. Tania suggested that the Admin WG would take this feedback and discuss at upcoming meetings.
* Rich Farrington: Rich suggested that many groups identified have media professionals and resources and could help ACCG with outreach and communications efforts. He noted the importance of developing attractive, effective outreach materials.

Tania concluded that CBI would integrate ACCG input into the table and the Admin WG would continue refining the plan and bring it back to the ACCG before the end of the year.

## UPDATES

## Administrative Work Group Update

Regine Miller reported that CHIPS has extended its contract with the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) to September, 30, 2021 for ACCG facilitation and conflict resolution services to allow for CBI to fully expend the funds under contract. CBI expects to fully expend their budget by January. CHIPS may have some remaining funds that could be used for continued facilitation support into February. Robin Wall is working internally to secure additional CFLRA funds to continue CBI’s services through FY 2021. The Admin WG is set to discuss the ACCG’s future facilitation and conflict resolution needs at its October meeting. This topic is expected to then come before the full ACCG for discussion.

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| To date, Regine has received 16 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signature letters. She reminded the group that the new decision-making process will go into effect at the October General Meeting. She stated that interested parties can sign the revised MOA at any time going forward; however, they will need to sign the MOA in order to participate in decision-making. Regine will distribute an email listing who has signed onto the MOA thus far. |

Katherine Evatt shared with the group that she is cutting back and no longer able to serve as the National CFLR Coalition Liaison for the ACCG, together with John Heissenbuttel. A new volunteer is needed to fulfill the Coalition Liaison position. The Coalition Liaison is responsible for responding on behalf of the ACCG to requests from the National CFLR Coalition (which may include reaching out to ACCG members for input/consensus). According to Katherine, the time commitment is minimal. Every now and then, the coalition provides ACCG with useful information or asks for help with an annual report, federal legislation, etc. Regine asked anyone interested in filling the position to contact her and Katherine.

**Planning Work Group Update**

**SLAWG update.**  Megan Layhee shared that their next meeting is September 17th at 1pm. The group will preview the prioritization tool, and move forward with the resource and assets used to develop the prioritization tool. She thanked those who have participated in the SLAWG effort. The group meets the first and third Thursday of each month. Anyone interested in participating the SLAWG should email Megan to be included on the email distribution list. She will present at the general meeting in October.

Rich Farrington discussed following up with those entities and individuals who attended the mapping workshop in December 2019 receive their input on the tools.

Megan shared that after this week, the group should come to initial consensus on where the tool is headed. Megan will then draft a brief description of the tool and prioritization process, and use it to solicit feedback. The tool will then go the Planning WG for presentation and discussion.

**General Update.** Tania shared that the Planning Work Group has instituted a standing agenda item to discuss key learnings from ACCG speakers. The focus of the discussions is on how those lessons could be applied to the ACCG landscape. The Planning WG discussions are documented in meeting summaries. Periodically, the WG may prepare briefs summarizing their discussions for distribution to the full ACCG.

Tania went on to state that the Planning WG has discussed field trips. Randy Hanvelt suggested instituting small field trips for Planning WG members who can photo or video document the trip, then bring the information back to the Planning WG for presentation and discussion. The first trip has been scheduled to the Cabbage Patch Hemlock area to visit the first Designation by Prescription (DxP) project on the Calaveras Ranger District. Carinna Robertson stated the focus of the trip is comparing the Thompson timber sale to the Hemlock DxP sale; the projects have different approaches but similar results.

Randy Hanvelt relayed that Ray Cablayan believes the trip can move forward and that a film crew may join the trip through Mike Albrecht of Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources and Environment (TuCare).

* There was group discussion about the potential for a film crew or reporter to affect the group’s ability to have free and open discussion, and the possible need for the group to discuss how and when to involve external media.
* Tania asked the group to focus on the guidance they would like to establish for filming at this specific field trip, then the Admin WG can discuss external media more broadly. After continued group discussion, there was general agreement that individuals expressing opinions or any dialogue where opinions are discussed will not be filmed while on the field trip. The field trip video documentation would focus on informational presentations only. Randy offered to ask TuCARE to share the video with the ACCG before it is finalized.

**Funding Coordination Work Group Update**

Regine Miller shared that the group has formed with the initial members being Michael Pickard of Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Richard Sykes of UMRWA and herself. The work group is scheduled to meet Tuesday, September 22 at 3pm to review their charge, discuss priority projects as preliminarily identified by the SLAWG, and potential upcoming sources of funding. All are welcome to participate; email Regine if interested. Robin Wall asked to be part of the group.

## Roundtable

Randy Hanvelt: TuCare has an annual resources summit, some of which will be held in person and live streaming. There will be distinguished guests, and the theme is “Where there is a will.” The event is scheduled for the morning of October 30th. Randy will provide more information for distribution to the group.

Steve Brink: 1.1 million acres of National Forest land has burned in California thus far this year. The marine air has penetrated which has increased humidity and improved air quality.

Carinna Robertson: She has no updates but others should reach out to her with any questions on projects on the Calaveras Ranger District.

Robin Wall: The Forest Service is at the end of the fiscal year. The ACCG annual report will be drafted by the end of the month that describes the work accomplished this year. The Sierra to California All Lands Enhancement (SCALE) meeting is set for September 24th, and the Monitoring WG meeting is set for October 14 from 9am to 12pm.

Chuck Loffland: The Amador Ranger District is trying to get the Foster Meadow Restoration Project started beginning Monday. They are now working on a request for an exemption to the closure order in the event the forest does not open. The District is also working to get a Request for Proposals out for the Three Meadows project.

Liz Myer-Shields: The BLM went into higher fire restrictions last week; there are no camp fires and no open flames allowed on BLM lands across the state. She shared that the BLM did not pursue area closures or campground closures because recreational use has dropped off due to the extensive smoke, and because their land base doesn’t lend itself well to enforcing closures. Only the field office in northern California is experiencing a major fire incident right now. The BLM currently has a job announcement out for their Chief Ranger. The BLM is also looking to staff a salvage sale team that is a national team based in Sacramento who is available to travel the western U.S. field offices that experienced large fires and need to manage salvage sales.

John Heissenbuttel: The Amador Fire Safe Council (FSC) and Cal Am Team are set to begin the Tiger Creek fuel break project which includes 200 acres of BLM property near Tiger Creek reservoir. The Cal AM Team secured a SNC grant for the project and implementation will be administered by the Amador FSC. CAL FIRE has announced that the legislature did not fund the CCI Forest Health grants this year. The Governor did promise to fund this program from 2019 to 2024 so this news is disappointing.

* Steve Brink stated that the Governor may call a special session in November and allocate the cap and trade funds then.

Michael Pickard: Michael stated that he is waiting to hear what the news on the CAL FIRE CCI Fire Prevention grant program is. Michael shared two interesting mapping tools: [Airnow smoke map](file:///C:\Users\taniacarlone\Library\Containers\com.apple.mail\Data\Library\Mail%20Downloads\D78925B4-7A77-4B78-AE6F-F0ACBC5DDBFE\fire.airnow.gov) and the [California Forest Observatory](http://www.forestobservatory.com). The latter allows one to view forest metrics, fire spread, and fuel loading. Webinars are scheduled for next week; he will send the links to webinars to Regine for distribution.

Shane Dante: The Foothill Conservancy is hosting a river clean up nearby Electra Road on October 24th. Shane will send the press release details to the ACCG when they are ready.

Thurman Roberts: CHIPS crews have not been working since the forest closures. A small crew comprised of some staff from the Washoe and Yosemite crews are assisting with the Creek Fire fuel break.

Rich Farrington: UMRWA has a $1.3MM National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) contract for culvert replacement and erosion control in the Power Fire area. Seeing how the timber sale crews are continuing he asked, what is the opportunity to apply for an exemption? Rich is concerned about fire in the Mokelumne River watershed and potential impacts to water quality. Eldorado National Forest Supervisor Marsolais stated during his ACCG introduction that increasing pace and scale depends on community support. The ACCG has loosely talked about increasing pace and scale, and Rich wonders if ACCG supports that and if so what can we do about it? He asked the group, can we show the Forest Service support for increasing pace and scale?

* Steve Brink: Regarding the Power Fire culvert replacement, he suggested UMRWA seek an exemption by the Forest Supervisors.
* Chuck Loffland stated he will forward Rich an exemption form and shared the exemptions are approved at the district level.
* Robin said Rich can contact Linda Wadleigh directly.

# Meeting Participants

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| **Name** | **Affiliation** | **Time Committed to Meeting** |
| John Heissenbuttel | Cal Am, Amador FSC | 3.0 |
| Katherine Evatt | Foothill Conservancy | 3.0 |
| Gwen Starrett | ACCG Member, Citizens Climate Lobby | 3.0 |
| Michael Pickard | Sierra Nevada Conservancy | 3.0 |
| Regine Miller | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions | 3.0 |
| Rich Farrington | Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority | 3.0 |
| Greg Suba | Sierra Forest Legacy | 3.0 |
| John Buckley | Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center | 1.0 |
| Gerald Schwartz | East Bay Municipal Utility District | 3.0 |
| Megan Layhee | Consultant to Landmark Environmental and UMRWA | 3.0 |
| Chuck Loffland | Amador Ranger District | 3.0 |
| Shane Dante | Foothill Conservancy | 3.0 |
| Sue Holper | ACCG Member | 3.0 |
| Carinna Robertson | Calaveras Ranger District | 3.0 |
| Thurman Roberts | Sierra Nevada Alliance, Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions | 2.0 |
| Sara Husby | Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center | 3.0 |
| Randy Hanvelt | Association of California Loggers | 3.0 |
| Caitlynn Rich | Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center | 3.0 |
| Robin Wall | Amador Ranger District | 3.0 |
| Liz Myer-Shields | BLM | 3.0 |
| Tania Carlone | Consensus Building Institute | 3.0 |
| Chris Heppe | Bureau of Land Management | 0.75 |
| Emily Graham | Mother Lode Job Training | 3.0 |
| Steve Wilensky | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions | 3.0 |
| Steve Brink | California Forestry Association | 3.0 |
| Linda Wadleigh | Amador Ranger District | 3.0 |