ACCG Funding Coordination Work Group Action Items

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Meeting Brief:

* Rich Farrington and Richard Sykes provided an update on UMWRA’s application to Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). UMRWA is applying for the Forest Projects Plan Phase I and Phase II to complete NEPA planning for 10,000 acres and >50,000 acres, respectively. UMRWA’s $472,000 request to CDFW is one of 128 proposals being considered. Richard shared that the UMRWA Board provided him authorization to apply to future grant opportunities.
* The group discussed the current CAL FIRE Forest Health and Fire Prevention grant solicitations and proposals under development.
	+ Richard stated that under the Forest Health program, UMRWA is preparing a proposal for its Forest Projects Plan Phase I planning and implementation. UMRWA plans to request $5MM to complete NEPA on 10,000 acres within the Amador and Calaveras Ranger Districts, and to implement mastication on approximately 3,000 acres. Of the total acreage, about 90-100% is on the Amador District and 0-10% is on the Calaveras District.
	+ Regine shared that, under the Forest Health program, the Sierra Business Council (SBC), together with Phoenix Energy, is preparing a proposal for capital infrastructure for the planned Blue Mountain Electric Company (BMEC) 3MW forest biomass to energy plant in Wilseyville. The SBC plans to request approximately $5MM. Regine suggested that UMRWA exchange letters of support with SBC to demonstrate the potential for the Forest Projects Plan to generate biomass to supply the power plant, and for the plant to serve as an economically viable outlet to support forest restoration in the region.
	+ Per Jessica Self’s email, Regine relayed that, under the Fire Prevention Program, Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) is preparing a proposal for fuel reduction activities on 30 acres around the West Point regulating reservoir, wastewater treatment plant and abandoned wastewater spray field to protect critical infrastructure.  These facilities are the sole source of potable water and fire water flow for West Point, Wilseyville, and Bummerville.
	+ Other proposals that were briefly discussed included the Amador Resource Conservation District proposal to reduce ladder fuels on 800 acres in and around the South and Middle Fork of the Jackson Creek, and the Forest Meadows Homeowners Association fuel break construction proposal, both of which are to the Fire Prevention Program.
* Regine briefly discussed the SNC Early Action Funding. She shared that the Cal Am Team applied for funding for the Davies Ranch to Summit Level Road fuel break, which is an existing fuel break proposed for maintenance.
* The group discussed the SNC funding to become available in July 2021 and reviewed possible project applications.
	+ Richard stated that UMRWA’s need for additional NEPA planning dollars will depend upon the results of its CDFW and CAL FIRE requests. The group discussed the possibility of contracting out NEPA planning, similar to how the Calaveras District did on the Prather-Medusa EA. Carinna Robertson stated that this arrangement helped to overcome capacity challenges but still required Forest Service staff time.
	+ Richard discussed his preliminary discussions with SNC to seek a research grant that analyzed slope constraints for mastication. Regine reminded the group that the CAL FIRE Forest Health Research grant program extended their deadline for the current solicitation to June 7.
	+ Chuck Loffland discussed several potential projects in response to Karen Quidachay’s email asking for locations of potential projects including:
		- Hazard tree removal. Chuck stated that there are a significant number of downed trees on the Amador District resulting from the January 2021 windstorm. The blowdown is mainly in the 6,000-8,000’ elevation range on ridges and is across various project areas. Chuck stated the district will need to figure a way to contend with the downed trees over the next several years.
		- Oskee Bear. The timber harvest is complete but prescription burning and fuels work remains.
		- Panther Fuel Break. The project has an active timber sale. Chuck believes there are hand work and herbicide treatments remaining.
		- Moke Bear. The project has an old NEPA. Chuck stated he will check on the status of what remains to be done, and that there is substantial blowdown at the end of Ellis Road within the project area.
	+ Carinna Robertson stated that she doesn’t have the time to consider possible applications to SNC and that it is struggle to focus on the ACCG area due to lack of internal capacity and competing demands. She continued that there is significant blow down of trees, particularly near Spicer Road where the District has small sale contract underway.
	+ The group discussed its interest in seeing the Mattley Meadows project move forward. They discussed the need to determine if upcoming SNC funding would include meadow restoration. Richard stated he emailed Gia Martynn of Plumas Corporation recent Wildlife Conservation Board and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funding solicitations.
* Megan Layhee provided an update on her work to solicit GIS spatial data for planned projects from ACCG participants which she will integrate into the SLAWG mapper tool.
* The next meeting is June 8, 3-4pm via Zoom.

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| **ACTION ITEM** | **RESPONSIBLE PARTIES** |
| Ask Michael Pickard if the upcoming round of SNC funding will:1. Bifurcate planning and implementation, or if SNC will allow for applicants to include both in a single grant proposal. 2. Include funding for meadow restoration.  | Regine |
| Consider possible application to the CAL FIRE Forest Health Research grant program to evaluate slope constraints for mastication.  | Richard |
| Email Chuck Loffland inquiry about the scope, location and status of the hazard tree removal, Oskee Bear, Panther Fuel Break, and Mokey Bear projects on the Amador District. | Karen Quidachay |
| Check the status of what remains on the Mokey Bear project. | Chuck |
| Email Pat MCGreevy to ask if the Cal Am Team expects to apply to SNC for funding to implement the South fork Mokelumne and Bummerville projects.  | Regine |
| Contact CCWD to ensure they are aware of SBC’s CAL FIRE Forest Health application and to recommend they exchange letters of support.  | Regine  |
| Continue to network with the Forest Service, UMRWA and Cal Am Team to obtain spatial data for some of the projects on the SNC stimulus list spreadsheet. | Megan  |

**Meeting Participants:**

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| **Name** | **Affiliation** | **Time** **(Hours)** |
| Megan Layhee | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions | 1 |
| Richard Sykes | Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority | 1 |
| Rich Farrington | UMRWA Board | 1 |
| Carinna Robertson | Stanislaus NF, Calaveras District | 1 |
| Chuck Loffland | Eldorado NF. Amador District | 1 |
| Regine Miller | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions | 1 |