

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

Meeting Brief

- Herbicide Panel with Maria Benech (STF, Rim Fire Restoration Coordinator), Scott Oneto (UC Coop Ext, Agriculture and Natural Resources Advisor), and John Buckley (CSERC, ED).
- ACCG Communications & Engagement Plan development update by Tania Carlone (CBI).
- ACCG Work Groups and meeting participants provided updates of their activities.

Action Items

Actions	Responsible Parties
Megan will make the Feb 17 th general meeting summary as final and add to the website.	Megan Layhee
Megan will get articles and other materials from panelist and distribute to the ACCG.	Megan Layhee

Summary

Modification and/or approval of agenda and November 2020 Meeting Summary.

There were no suggested changes to this month's agenda.

There were no suggested changes to the February 17th, 2021 General Meeting summary.

Tania asked that everyone briefly introduce themselves with name and affiliation. See the participant list at the end of this document.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

Herbicide Panel

Overview

Panelists: Maria Benech (STF, Rim Fire Restoration Coordinator), Scott Oneto (UC Coop Ext, Agriculture and Natural Resources Advisor), and John Buckley (CSERC, Executive Director)

Tania gave an overview of the panel objectives:

- Gain a clearer understanding of the range of perspectives on the use of herbicides in forest management.
- Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of herbicide use, where and when herbicides are used and for what purposes.
- Discuss safety standards for herbicide use to protect drinking water supply.

Tania noted that there will be a companion panel in April about Herbicide Alternatives to address more topics that just can't be addressed during today's panel. Tania then mentioned the format of today's panel – panelist 10-min introductions, followed by a 60-min panel discussion and Q&A with the meeting participants.

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

Tania then briefly introduced the panelists:

John Buckley has been the Executive Director for the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC) for nearly 30 years. CSERC serves as a key voice for forests, water, wildlife, and wild places at meetings, hearings, and collaborative sessions.

Scott Oneto is an Agriculture and Natural Resources Advisor for the UC ANR Cooperative Extension and has been for over 20 years. He received his bachelor's in plant sciences from UC Davis and his masters in horticulture and agronomy with an emphasis in weed science from UC Davis. His specialties include agriculture, rangeland management and weed science.

Maria Benech is the Rim Fire Restoration Coordinator on the Stanislaus National Forest. She has been with the Forest Service for over 34 years, 32 of those years with the Stanislaus NF. The Rim Fire Reforestation & Restoration Project includes various forest treatments, habitat enhancement and noxious weed eradication on NF lands within the Rim Fire footprint.

Herbicide Panel Introductory Presentations

John Buckley's ppt presentation is titled, "Positions on herbicides reflect individual perspectives and priorities". CSERC has been involved in herbicide debates for 30 years, and realize that there are many perspectives out there on the safety and utility of herbicides. He discussed aerial spraying of herbicides and the historical use of it on NF lands, and discussed the validity of citing industrial research as the basis for the use of aerial application on public lands. He referenced CSERC's involvement of FS EIS review in the 1990s, and through this effort gleaned that due to industry trade secrets, the exact composition of herbicides applied on NF lands were not reported or inert additive ingredients or surfactants tested for. In the 1990s, CSERC sued the FS over proposed used of an herbicide where the manufacturer admitted that the proposed herbicide contained a list 2 inert ingredient- kerosene and other chemicals. FS had a regulatory requirement at the time that prohibited using herbicides that had a list 2 ingredient, but the FS changed agency regulation and eliminated that prohibition. He discussed examples of mistrust of herbicides - the People for Healthy Forests and an aerial spray incident on the STF that led to the banning of aerial herbicide use by R5 for several years. He went on to discuss glyphosate as another example of mistrust, and settlements related to this herbicide and its effect on human health. CSERC has tried to work to find a middle ground solution for the cautious use of non-aerial herbicide application (less risk to public and wildlife). CSERC's four positions that could minimize controversy:

1. The use of herbicides on public lands should be approved only when there is a clear public benefit that outweighs the risk.
2. Chemical treatments should never be applied when there is a chance of contamination of water bodies – for protection of public and reduce public outcry.
3. Herbicides should only be used when there are no feasible alternatives, not where it's most convenient, even if the cost is higher.

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

4. Herbicide application, is a tool in the toolbox and be the treatment of last resort – herbicides have ecological impacts and since herbicides kill plants indiscriminately, its application should only be used when there are no feasible alternatives.

Scott Oneto's ppt presentation began by discussing the state's forests (approximately 30 million acres, 1/3 of all lands) and thinking it as an agricultural commodity (e.g., timber), and suggested that it is underutilized commodity in his perspective. Discussed timber as a terminal crop, meaning within its lifecycle there is only one harvest, unlike most agricultural commodities we think of (e.g., annual crop). The timber commodity process -- collecting and planting seeds, trees are transplanted, care and then harvest trees, and then cycle is repeated. Discussed and referenced some literature, about planted forests meeting societal demand for timber while maintaining our forests, and it be obtained by 2050 if 13% of our land base was planted in an intensively forest management. Scott also included a table in his slideshow of registered herbicides for forestry practices. Suggested that the greatest utility for herbicide use is in forestry site prep and that studies suggest that good site prep is critical for establishing a successful plantation, due to minimizing competition for already limited resources (i.e., water, nutrients and space). In terms of competition, brush and hardwoods grow faster than conifers, and herbaceous vegetation can quickly deplete resources (water, light, nutrients) from conifer seedlings. Addressed an 18-year trail comparison study by SPI looking at herbicide application treatment, showing 27% taller trees and 40% greater tree diameter in the herbicide-treated site. Went on to discuss herbicides as a tool for managing fuel loading and more fire resilient landscape. Scott then touched on on some environmental considerations, including biodiversity and species richness. Scott referenced literature suggesting that herbicide treatments have a short-term effect on those metrics at a treated site, and cited literature that suggests biodiversity and species richness can increase in the long-term by controlling dominant, early successional species with herbicide treatments. Scott went on to discuss what has changed- herbicide chemistry, adjuvant chemistry (replacement of nonylphenols ethoxylates (NPEs)), application methods, nozzles, and technology including better GPS and GIS technologies leading to more accurate application, and use of drones for application, among other things.

Maria Benech started her career in 1989 after the 1987 Complex Fire on the STF doing reforestation. She was the Rim Fire ID Team Lead for the EIS and then ID Team Leader for reforestation effort. Maria touched on Scott's discussion on timber and forests as a commodity, which she agreed with. She went on to discuss NF land forest management of timber is to create wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, and that reforestation is planned for areas that are in need of it in order to thrive on their own into the future. She also touched on safety, and that before any project or treatment on FS lands, the FS conducts human health risk assessments. She also mentioned that the STF has extensive worksheets used for each herbicide chemical type as part of risk assessment for all projects before implementation. In addition, the FS have spill plans in place, spill kits, and PPE. She noted that independent contractors have spill plans, as well. She went on to talk suggests herbicides are effective tools in the toolbox because of the research and its demonstrated effectiveness, and that fire-adapted ecosystems (e.g., bear clover) are especially hard to treat and an inability to treat fire-adapted species in any other way besides herbicides. She went on to talk about deerbrush, as another example of a very robust species that is difficult to suppress in a burned landscape. Maria then described selective herbicide spraying with glyphosate. She showed a picture of green oaks and some green bear clover after selective spraying, and suggested that selective spraying does not kill everything and that selective

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

spraying does not impact the seed bed. She also touched on whether residual herbicides or closed canopy are a bigger factor in determining shrub and other species regrowth in an herbicide-treated area, which she suggested closed canopy is a bigger factor than residual herbicides. She went on to describe the greatest drawback of herbicide for the FS - controversy. She then went on to describing FS alternatives to herbicide application - hand grubbing, disking and detilling. Hand grubbing builds a 5-ft radius circle around a seedling, minimum to help sustain viability. She suggested that this method is extremely expensive, not viable and labor intensive, and disturbs topsoil. She went on to compare treatment type costs - herbicide cost \$200-250 per acres, hand grubbing costs \$1000 per acre. She then went on to talk about the effectiveness of detilling in removing root systems, but that it creates a lot of soil disturbance and that the FS has found bear clover regrowth in these treatment areas and suggested herbicides were still more effective for site prep over the abovementioned alternatives. Maria then went on to talk about the usefulness of herbicides not only for site prep, but also for control of noxious weeds and fuelbreak maintenance. She mentioned that there are future plans to implement herbicide use for fuelbreak maintenance on STF lands, but also herbicide treatments for Caltrans Right-of-Ways.

Herbicide Panel Discussion, Q&A with ACCG Participants

Tania discussed ACCG meeting guiding principles and ground rules slide to remind participants about how to provide a more productive and constructive discussion.

Steve Wilensky asked Maria by acre what percentage of Rim Fire reforestation projects have used herbicides versus other methods. Steven then asked Scott about USDA forestry regulations and movement away from glyphosaphate for food supply, is there any possibilities for new products for food supply can be used for forestry herbicide use. Thanked all three panelists for their presentations.

- Maria replied to Steve's question that about 75% of release treatments will be herbicide and the remaining would be hand release treatments.
- Scott replied to Steve's other question with Imazapyr. He suggested that there is an increased use of imazapyr in forestry treatments, and can effectively control woody brush species, and decline in other herbicides being used. Also touched on broad-leaf specific herbicides (e.g., triclopyr) has a new chemistry coming out, choline formulations, and may be safer in terms of hits chemistry, registered in CA is Vastlan herbicide (choline formulation).
- Tania also asked Scott to forward any studies to Megan to post on the ACCG website and send out to the full ACCG.

Caitlyn Rich (chat) - Question for Scott - You said that forestry brings in about \$500 million dollars for CA. Does that \$500 million account for the money lost by taxpayers to subsidize logging on National Forest land?

- Scott said he doesn't think so. That stat was pulled from CDFA annual summary. Scott said he would share that report.

John Buckley shared that this whole perspective comes back to the fact that different land jurisdictions have different priorities. He admitted that aerial application can be very effective tool to get rid of veg competition in clearcuts, but the FS goal is not to remove veg competition, just the most problematic competing species. So, the question that the ACCG might consider, is that for public lands, where can

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

herbicides be applied where the outcome justifies the use, or to ask where alternatives may be more appropriate.

John Heissenbuttal – Appreciated open-mindedness of CSERC. Nobody pointed out that the USEPA has regulatory authority over herbicides. The USEPA has not determined that glyphosate is a carcinogen.

- Scott said that is correct, the USEPA is the regulatory body, but that the CA Department of Pesticide Regulation is an additional regulatory body. That just if because an herbicide is approved by EPA, that does not mean it can be used in CA. It has to be approved by CAPR through the sales process even after the EPA approves a chemical.
- Scott also touched on John's comment about glyphosate. It's on the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Group 2A list as a probable carcinogen (Link to list on IARC website: <https://monographs.iarc.who.int/list-of-classifications>). He offered to send more materials and write ups on this topic. He also mentioned that things like red meat, night shift work, and indoor emissions from wood stove, are also on this the IARC Group 2A list.

Rich F. (chat) - Panel members -- Is ground application of herbicides by hand spraying a safer way of controlling the application? If so, what percent of FS applications on the Eldorado and Stanislaus are aerial vs. hand (past vs proposed)? What would be the effect of prohibiting aerial application of herbicides, e.g., on feasibility, on cost, on protection of water quality & aquatic species, effectiveness, etc.?

- Maria said that it's not necessarily safer, but that hand application is less controversial. She added that in some ways aerial is safer, in terms of the applicators. However, 100% of herbicide application on STF is done by hand. She added that herbicides is a tool in the toolbox and its safer, effective, and easier to do in certain areas. She did not know the cost of aerial currently, but she did say it is faster and more effective than hand and that is something to consider in terms of cost and effectiveness.
- John Buckley responded to Rich's questions and Maria response, by starting with that he really values Maria's expertise reforestation and silviculture. He added that it is legitimate to have different points of view. Also, that he is not aware of any aerial application done in the region in recent years, only ground treatments. He agrees that there is an applicator safety issue with hand application, but that he added that aerial application is less precise in terms of where the chemical is being applied. He asked whether we need to use herbicides to get to certain trees per acre when the FS often doesn't even have the funding to do the secondary step of thinning the plantation? The question is being strategic about where herbicide tool is used on FS lands.
- Maria responded to John's comment that in the STF latest reforestation plan, reintroduction of fire in year 10 is being looked at as a tool to reduce competition and thinning to occur around year 30.

Rick Hopson asked what is the next steps with conversation in the ACCG, especially the Planning WG? He mentioned that John's points will help with moving the conversation forward. But that the challenges that Rick sees is when thinking about large wildfires and the safety for communities, and how do we balance the factors - cost and the amount of work we need to get done. He suggested that maybe utilizing herbicide treatments on fuel breaks. Rick also mentioned that the Amador RD worked with ACCG in the past on herbicide projects including the Power Fire Reforestation Project and the Panther

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

Timber Sale Project with a goal of reducing herbicide use while still meeting project objectives (e.g., identifying spray zones, targeted species). Important to get to the right answer, to get in front of the wildfire problem.

- Tania noted that the Planning WG has a debrief after GM panel on what they learned in the panel and how it can be applied on the ACCG landscape. Ultimate goal to not lose sight of – increase pace and scale of treatments, understand better how to use all of the tools in the toolbox in a way to minimize controversy, and learning from bottlenecks in the collaborative.

Alissa Fogg (chat) - A question for any panel member - have there been any studies looking at varying the application radius around young conifers and its effect on survival and growth? Say 3ft vs 6ft vs 10ft vs. broadcast over the entire plantation/stand?

- John (chat) - In terms of Alissa's question, yes, treating a broader diameter around a planted tree seedling increases its likelihood of growing faster and surviving competition. However, except in bear clover, a large percentage of tree seedlings consistently survive even with a minimal treatment around the tree. So broader wider buffers of chemical treatment increase effectiveness, but that means more natural, native plants killed simply to increase the percentage of tree survival.
- Alissa (chat) - Thanks John - I am wondering if there is a threshold where survival doesn't change or if we can decide on a balance between ensuring conifer forests survive with keeping native understory species as habitat. I will look into the literature.
- John B. (chat) - Alissa: Eliminating every possible competing plant will increase the survival, but as we as panelists will agree to disagree, the question really comes down to what is acceptable to have in terms of conifer seedling tree survival. If having 50-75 trees per acre ends up being acceptable, then herbicides are rarely needed in non-bear clover reforestation sites. If 150-200 trees per acre is judged by the FS as desirable, then a 5' buffer around planted seedlings become more justified.
- Alissa (chat) – thanks John

Richard Sykes (chat) - For Panel Members — it appears that most of the discussion of herbicide application is for use in reforestation (after fire or clear cutting) but is the use similar in selective logging? And what percentage of logging on USFS land in CA is selective? Thank you.

- Maria – no clearcutting on FS lands, Sporox is used in selective logging on FS lands to minimize the spread of disease not to minimize competition.
- John B. – in the Sierra Nevada there are no clearcuts being applied, instead uneven-aged, selective logging treatments. FS is applying selective or thinning logging treatments.
- Richard Sykes – UMRWA is looking at developing a project to get thousands of acres of treatments on FS lands within the Upper Mokelumne Watershed. It is important to UMRWA to move that along, and panel was helpful in thinking about how do we get consensus as quickly as possible in the collaborative.

Randy (chat) - I would like to hear some commentary on invasive species such as yellow star thistle and medusa head as it related to herbicide use.

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

- John B. – CSERC has supported the use of herbicides when there are no alternatives to noxious weed treatments. Example of herbicide application that clearly creates a benefit that outweighs the risk.
- Maria – For the Rim Fire Reforestation Project, they included almost six thousand acres of noxious weed eradication. Star thistle and medusa head are both noxious weeds that they are hitting in the Rim Fire burn area, including a grass-specific herbicide. And really focusing on those small noxious weed populations within the Rim Fire footprint.
- Scott stressed the importance of treating noxious weeds early on, when they are still small populations.
 - Also, a response to Anne Heissenbuttal’s comment in the chat
 - Your background photo of oblong spurge brings to mind invasive species, which Maria also mentioned several times. What is the most effective method for treating Invasives in our forest lands, and particularly in sensitive areas like the Moke River drainage, to reduce the rate of spread and even better, to eradicate?

Greg Suba thanked the panelist for having a great discussion on a very emotional issue, and appreciated the conversation about reforestation, and also asked the panelists when and why herbicides treatment for fuel break maintenance treatments, and why not prescribed fire?

- Maria said that historically their inability to maintain FB is a difficult landscape to treat, and that Rx Fire is a difficult tool to implement along ridgelines and especially in areas adjacent to communities. The STF is looking at using herbicides for FB maintenance especially in areas in proximity to communities, especially for large sprouting brush and grasses, and not broadcast spraying.
- Scott added to Maria’s comments that FB maintenance is where we fall short. Looking at all of the tools in the toolbox and choose the tool that is most appropriate that best fits the situation in terms of the environment, human safety, cost, etc.
- John B. – Greg’s question ties in much larger question and discussion for ACCG with the FS. He understands that the STF won’t be putting fire on the ground until there has been mechanical treatment first. CSERC perspective is that, citing M. North, if we get away from that approach and use a combination of Rx Fire after initial mechanical treatments and Rx fire (pyrosilviculture) much more than what we are using now.
 - Maria added that Jason Kuiken is a huge proponent of bringing fire back on the landscape, but Maria said that fire isn’t the only tool. With staffing and resources limitations, what tools can we actually get on the ground? She gave an example where FB are maintained where they do shredding of mostly chamise field, but where use Rx Fire is not an option. Just a question of what is the best tool for the location.
- Rick Hopson (chat) – response to Greg’s question. On the Amador RD we signed the Panther decision (2017) that included fuelbreak creation and maintenance. Often in the past our decisions do not address maintenance, which I think is a mistake. The Panther decision allowed for several options for fuelbreak maintenance - Rx fire, herbicide, grazing, and mechanical. I'll share that decision with Megan to send out as one example.

Tania mentioned that the Planning WG will continue this discussion about these tools.

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

UPDATES

Administrative Work Group Update

Tania gave an overview on the development of the C&E Plan and that the ACCG will have a discussion at a following general meeting about the C&E plan. Tania showed the last slide of her ppt, with questions for future discussion:

- What do you especially like about the plan? What doesn't resonate?
- What are the top 5 or so tasks outlined in the implementation plan that we should do in the coming 1-2 years?
- What tasks in the implementation section are you really excited about (as an ACCG member or member of another work group)? What are you interested in doing to contribute in advancing the C&E work?

Regine also added that the Admin WG is beginning to discuss what ACCG facilitation and administration will look like after 2021.

Planning Work Group Update

Megan mentioned some highlights from February 2021 Planning WG meeting summary including the confirmation of the March General meeting Panel members, discussion on the Herbicide Alternative panel scheduled for the April General meeting, further discussed the SLAWG Mapping Tools and what the Planning WG future charge will be to move toward the ACCG's strategic plan goal of increasing pace and scale within the ACCG landscape. The WG also discussed the take-aways from the inaugural Prescribed Fire ad hoc meeting. There were also project updates from the Amador RD. Rick also mentioned that he will work Megan to schedule a Good Neighbor Authority Panel discussion. Next Planning WG meeting is next Wed., March 24th.

Monitoring Work Group Update

Robin mentioned the last MWG meeting topics, including continued evaluation of monitoring efforts and the questions that they are asking on for multiple projects (e.g., Hemlock, Caples, Foster Firs, Power Fire), identification of key questions not currently monitoring or data gaps, or better monitoring methodologies. Robin also mentioned a proposed Power Fire Field Symposium proposed for fall of this year, and that the MWG will bring that to the Planning WG to discuss their interest in a future field symposium. Also, some MWG folks had a meeting with Megan Layhee to discuss website refinements for the Monitoring WG, website updates and efforts are ongoing. Next MWG meeting April 7th.

Funding Coordination Work Group Update

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

Met March 9th. Michael Pickard shared a legislative update and that SNC is slated to receive an additional \$5 million for a total of \$75 million. Richard gave an update on UMRWA's grant applications (to SNC and CDFW) for NEPA planning for forest service lands within the Upper Mokelumne watershed. Grant opportunities to review at the month's meeting, in particular the group talked about SNC, CAL FIRE, WCB riparian conservation grant program, and USDA rural community initiative grant. Group brainstormed project concepts, particularly the CAL FIRE grants, which ACCG affiliated groups have action items to go back to their entities to see if they may be looking to find funding. April 13th next meeting, update on whether entities are interested in pursuing funding and what projects makes most sense to move forward.

- Michael Pickard added that the group is finding their rhythm. He added that clearly having UMRWA and CHIPS part of this group is great, and he encourages participation from RCDs and FSCs in order for them to be a part of these conversations.
- Carinna Robertson added that from a FS aspect, this group is great to put all of the projects on the table and bring all of the players to the table and then funding opportunities. Beneficial from a FS perspective.
- John Heissenbuttal agrees with Regine that it's great that CAL FIRE has money for the fire prevention grant, and he added that the grant deadline is May 15th. He heard that the ACCG is going to meet in April to talk more, but that that is not very much time for ACCG to provide a support letter for anyone project proponent.
 - Regine added that John Heissenbuttal is right, it's a tight window. Not sure what proponents want an ACCG letter of support or not. Project support process is dynamic and may need to be modified.
 - Tania added that a Letter of Support can go directly to full ACCG at a General Meeting and forego the going to the Planning WG first.
- Steve Wilensky added that there is a conflicting situation, on the one hand the ACCG is trying to increase pace and scale, but only 3-5 organizations (including CHIPS, UMRWA, Cal Am Team), but these entities have a capacity, fundraising and administrative issues. Proposed that a shared or mutual approach to applying for funds and administering projects may help with individual entities capacity issues.
 - Tania asked Regine to think about if the Funding Coordination WG may want to work with the Admin WG to discuss this issue Steve raised further.

Rx Fire Ad Hoc

Sara Husby gave a brief update on the Rx Fire Ad Hoc group. CSERC will leading the group moving forward. Discussed the reasons why the group was started - information sharing, better understand constraints to Rx Fire application on private and public lands, need for public outreach and education on Rx Fire, and have a more focused discussion apart from the Planning WG. Also discussed goals and functions of group – increase pace and scale of management tools that make forests more resilient including Rx fire, reestablish natural fire regime across landscape, and consider possible ACCG supportive policy paper on the use of Rx fire. Upcoming meeting is March 22nd 2-3pm where FS will discuss constraints on implementing Rx Fire. Megan will include a standing time slot on future Planning WG agendas to have an ad hoc update.

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

Rich also added the concept of pyrosilviculture would be explored with the FS at these meetings.

Roundtable

Carinna Robertson – For the Hemlock project area starting to seeing operating plans come in and Arnold-Avery project will treat an additional 500 acres and follow up prescribed fire will occur after the fuels reduction. Also, Prather-Medusa Project got signed today.

Kellin Brown – Still burning as much as they can, about 1,000 acres and about a third of their piles have been burned.

Rick Hopson – New Forest Supervisor, Jeff Marsolais. Propose that he can come to the ACCG, and that the conversations are great, thinking bigger and more effective, and are similar to the conversations that the Forest is having.

Robin Wall – Working with FS supervisor to come and talk to the ACCG about this initiative. Also mentioned her appreciation for Gwen Starrett.

Gwen Starrett– said in the chat that she will be moving to Oregon and that she thanks everyone for their work, but that she will continue on the Three Meadows project this summer.

- Robin Wall thanked Gwen for her hard work with the Monitoring WG and with her guidance in the group.
- Alissa Fogg also echoed in the chat.

David Griffith – Mentioned the eastside's concern about investment in funding opportunities for their region. R4 regional forester and Randy Moore had a meeting and followed up with Forest Supervisor for Humboldt-Toiyabe. May get some programs going on the eastside, which is positive. Also, ABC next meeting first Tuesday of the month have local ranger on their Rx fire program on the eastside, and also have local air district director about smoke management plan.

Greg Suba – Noted a Rx fire report that he had sent out to the Rx Fire Ad hoc group. Will find that link and put it in the chat. Here is link to the report I mentioned:
<https://karuktribeclimatechangeprojects.com/good-fire/>

John Buckley – Report on new approaches to reforestation and silviculture to supplement discussions today. He will send that to Megan to distribute to the group.

John Heissenbutter – AFSC will begin maintenance work on Mitchell Mine FB and doing in a way to set up monitoring plots (set up later this year) for various treatment types for brush control including herbicides, organic herbicides, grazing, and mechanical.

Leana Weissberg – New Forester with BLM Mother Lode Field Office. Will be out with the Cal Am Team this week to look at some timber sale units' and reforestation units.

Randy Hanvelt – Great panel and appreciate the panelists and the conversation.

Rich Farrington – Second Randy's comment, great panel. Report that UMRWA exec officer, Richard Sykes, has been working with the Blue Forest Restoration Group to develop an MOU to guide a cost

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

benefit analysis of a possible Forest Resilience Bond that could provide more stable revenue stream for forest restoration, and looking to bring this to the next board meeting in April. Also, UMRWA staff learned that SNC staff will recommend UMRWA's Planning Project proposal to SNC board for funding.

Steve Wilensky – Echo Robin's comments about Gwen and will be a great loss to the collaborative. CHIPS have been doing outreach work through Inter-tribal Stewardship Workforce Initiative Project and under that made breakthroughs with the Paiute community in Chico and Magalia pulling scotch broom, and a Fire Safe Council in Camp Fire burn scar, and next to do work in Collins Pine with a new workforce. In Yosemite finished a project in the valley restoring meadows. Throughout CHIPS crews, there will be TEK training and certification, in conjunction with CSU Chico, that will apply tribal methods to forest projects and staff are being trained. In addition, CPR, basic 32 and red-card training for various crews. Thanks to John Heissenbutter for the monitoring plots, and for allowing CHIPS for working for FSC to do fire safe clearing around homes of senior citizens.

Regine – in addition to ISWI from SNC, CHIPS is busy working on implementation of Arnold-Avery HFR and FB Maintenance Project, WCB/Upper Mokelumne Forest Restoration Project on Amador RD have two RFPs out for mechanical and hand thinning and tree planting. Also, continuing SF Mokelumne Project implementation work with Cal Am Team masticating piles.

Megan – just gave an update on the Herbicide Alternatives Panel, any ideas for other panelists.

Thurman – reiterated what Steve and Regine said and that they covered the CHIPS update.

Sue Holper – gave praise to the panel today and celebrating what John H. said about monitoring plots on treatments.

Steve Brink – reiterated the CAL FIRE Fire Prevention and Forest Healthy grants are now available until May 19th. Nationally, USDA has requested a response from stakeholders on how to respond to climate smart- carbon sequestration from our forests. Steve added that he thought the questions from USDA are not specific, and would need to put billions of dollars into reforestation. USFS FIA group did a study for state of CA in 2015 about carbon seq. in CA forests, and interesting to see that private lands had 3x the carbon sequestration than NF lands in the state - largely because of wildfire, disease and insect issues.

Rick Hopson - mentioned the gratitude he has to Gwen.

Rich Farrington due to Gwen's effort, we have the 3 meadows project, wouldn't have happened without Gwen and she will be missed.

Tania closed the meeting and reminded about the PWG on March 24th and materials out by COB Friday of this week.

The next General Meeting will take place on April 21st from 9-noon.

Meeting Participants

Name	Affiliation	Time Committed to Meeting
Alissa Fogg	Point Blue	3.0

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, March 17th, 2021, by Zoom

Anne Heissenbuttal	Heissenbuttal Natural Resource Consulting	3.0
Caitlynn Rich	CSERC	3.0
Carinna Robertson	Calaveras Ranger District	3.0
Chuck Beckman	EBMUD	3.0
Chuck Loffland	Amador Ranger District	2.0
Craig Christensen	CHIPS	3.0
David Griffith	ABC	3.0
Gerald Schwartz	EBMUD	3.0
Greg Suba	SFL	3.0
Gwen Starrett	Amador Resident/Citizen's Climate Lobby, Amador Calaveras Chapter	3.0
Jan ?		3.0
Jeff Griffin	USFS	3.0
Joe Sherlock	FS R5	3.0
John Buckley	CSERC	3.0
John Heissenbuttal	Heissenbuttal Natural Resource Consulting, Cal Am, AFSC	3.0
Katie Budreski	USFS R5	3.0
Kellin Brown	Calaveras Ranger District	3.0
Leana Weissberg	BLM Motherlode Field Office	3.0
Maria Benech	USFS, STF	3.0
Megan Layhee	CHIPS	3.0
Michael Pickard	SNC	3.0
Randy Hanvelt	ACL	3.0
Ray Cablayan	Calaveras Ranger District	3.0
Regine Miller	CHIPS	3.0
Rich Farrington	UMRWA	3.0
Richard Sykes	UMRWA	3.0
Rick Hopson	Amador Ranger District	3.0
Robin Wall	Amador Ranger District	3.0
Sara Husby	CSERC	3.0
Scott Oneto	UC ANR Cooperative Extension	3.0
Steve Brink	California Forestry Association	1.0
Sue Holper	Private landowner	3.0
Steve Wilensky	CHIPS	3.0
Tania Carlone	CBI	3.0
Thurman Roberts	CHIPS	3.0