

# Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting by Zoom

## Meeting Brief

- Meeting facilitator: Megan Layhee
- Becky Estes (USFS R5, Province Ecologist) gave a presentation on GTR-270: Postfire restoration framework for CA national forests.
- Further discussion and next steps on the ACCG 2022 Priorities List.
- ACCG Work Groups and meeting participants provided updates of their activities.

## Action Items

Actions	Responsible Parties
Remove "DRAFT" watermark from last month's meeting summary and post to the ACCG website.	Layhee
Assign responsible party(s) to items on ACCG's 2022 Priorities List	Admin Work Group
Revisit process for determining Revised MOA Signatory status based on meeting participation and discuss next steps.	Admin Work Group
Continue outreach on TEK panel for possibly the April or May 2022 general meeting.	Layhee Rich Farrington Thurman Roberts
Post Becky's slides and presentation recording to ACCG website.	Layhee
Provide update on status of ENF LiDAR acquisition at February Planning Work Group meeting. Also, follow up with Dr. Kane on the status of the ENF 2016 LiDAR products their lab is developing.	Layhee
Follow up on status of Power Fire study and add topic to Planning Work Group action item list.	Farrington Amador RD staff Layhee
Email Becky Estes if you are interested in publications about fuel treatment efficacy - the regional office has been developing an annotated bibliography of all fuel treatment effectiveness research in the Western US.	All Becky Estes

## Summary

### Modification and/or approval of agenda and last month's meeting summary.

Megan Layhee reviewed the meeting agenda with participants. There were no suggested modifications to the agenda. There were no suggested modifications to the January general meeting minutes. Megan will take the draft watermark off the Jan. meeting summary and post to the ACCG website.

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There was a brief discussion about the Revised MOA signatory list on the third page of the meeting agenda and the process in place for identifying signatories that are no longer active. The Administrator will bring this to the Admin WG as a discussion item at their March meeting.

## PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS

### GTR-270: Postfire restoration framework for CA national forests presentation

Presenter: Becky Estes, USFS Region 5 Province Ecologist

Link to presentation recording: <https://acconsensus.org/resources/videos/>

Link to presentation slides: [https://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/PostFireRestorationFramework\\_ACCGMeeting\\_02162022-1.pdf](https://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/PostFireRestorationFramework_ACCGMeeting_02162022-1.pdf)

Link to publication: [https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw\\_gtr270/](https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr270/)

### GTR-270 Discussion

- Rich Farrington - Is there modeled data or analysis out there to identify how much fuel can be left on the ground to get to the natural range of variability?

Becky said that there is work diving into that topic now, but GTR-270 does not get into this. She added that the Dixie Fire is a great opportunity to understand the fuel loadings pre-fire and how they burned in the fire and re-burns and to give us a better understanding of what to remove out of post-fire landscapes so that if another fire comes through there is less of a chance of high severity patches.

Becky also added that the sooner we evaluate post-fire landscapes, the quicker we can focus reforestation efforts, which can minimize competition with other veg types to hopefully assist with minimizing future high severity re-burns. But how do we approach this so that we don't get high severity re-burns, and minimize the self-perpetuating regrowth of shrub species. And now since we are looking at reforesting huge high-severity fires (e.g., Dixie, Caldor) this will be a very big challenge.

- Richard Sykes – (1) Is reforestation a sound approach in terms of success of reforesting due to changing climate? and (2) Given climate change is NRV a moving target?

Becky responded to the first question and added that it is still hard to determine predicted climate shifts at the local scale for informing long-term forest recovery. Becky said yes to the second question, and that it is very clear from research that current forest densities are not even approaching what NRV would have been, so there may be a “near” target and maybe some other target that equates to climate change. The framework is a good first place to move toward.

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- Chuck Loffland – Added that as part of the 2022 monitoring symposium, is to use lessons learned from Power Fire monitoring and other work, as see how this can be applied the SOFAR area/Caldor Fire.

## **ACCG 2022 Priorities List**

Participants reviewed the revised draft ACCG 2022 Priority List and discussed next steps. It was identified that responsible parties for executing each of these priorities is needed. The Admin WG will begin this process at their March 2022 meeting.

## **Action Items**

- Folks interested in learning about fuels treatment efficacy research should reach out to Becky Estes directly.
- At their March 2022 meeting, the Admin WG to determine and assign responsibility over the priorities, which may be individual work groups or entities.

## **UPDATES**

### **Administrative Work Group Update**

Megan Layhee gave the Admin WG update. The Admin WG met virtually last on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. They confirmed the February general meeting agenda, discussed future general meeting format and the current covid situation, including hybrid meeting format, discussed CBI key doc prep, including the need to develop an ACCG Administration scope of work (job description) document.

### **Planning Work Group Update**

Megan Layhee gave the Planning WG update. The Planning WG met last on October 27. The group is meeting Feb. 23 via Zoom. The Planning Work Group will get a presentation by UMRWA on the Forest Projects Plan and have time for discussion with the group.

### **Monitoring Work Group Update**

Chuck Loffland gave the Monitoring WG update. They met last on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> and will meet next on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. Group transitioned to a Microsoft Teams format. Discussed goals for 2022 for work group: (1) monitoring symposium – discussed topics and format (2-day in July virtual and field, and then follow up in October field day in Caldor Fire) and talk about 2023 monitoring symposium on the Calaveras District, (2) monitoring report, and (3) discussion on LiDAR products available for ENF and STF.

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## **Funding Coordination Work Group Update**

Michael Pickard gave the Funding Coordination WG update. Group met on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>. Robin Bellows attended the meeting (CAL FIRE grant programs). UMRWA was able to ask Robin questions. Michael said that Robin is going to try to attend future FCWG meetings. Debriefed on the preliminary ideas that were discussed on the UMRWA and SNC meeting with Patrick Wright (CA Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force).

- Rich Farrington added that he heard Patrick Wright speak a couple times at meetings and Rich set up a call with Patrick, Richard Sykes and Justin Caruso (ED of Mountain Counties Water Resources Association). Then a second call with SNC (Angela Avery and Michael Pickard). These calls were high level about strategy, and possible block grants for multi-year projects. Rich added the current complexity. Patrick discussed the issue about landscape gaps that are not included in collaborative footprints, and a discussion whether UMRWA's footprint should be expanded. The other topic was how to measure accomplished – pillars of resilience. Rich added that he thought the target is removal of hazard fuels and that could be pretty simple. Richard Sykes that these are discussions and this is the early in the process. The SNC will be developing a follow up call/workshop.

## **Roundtable**

Michael Pickard – SNC Board Meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> via Zoom. SNC WIP Summit on March 2<sup>nd</sup> on Zoom and will be a panel discussing wildfire recovery efforts. Two projects recommending from our region; (1) Pine Ridge Summit FB (CRCD) and (2) Wilseyville Biomass Plant Blue Mountain Electric Company – hopefully construction starting in summer 2022 and fully functioning plant by fall 2023.

Richard Sykes – UMRWA submitted a FEMA NOI that would include fuel management work on 5 UMRWA water agencies, and easements on Amador County and Caltrans. Submitted a SNC grant application. Working on resubmitting CAL FIRE FH grant application. UMRWA continues to work on the Forest Projects Plan and will give a presentation to the Planning Work group next week, will give an update at the March 16<sup>th</sup> general meeting, and ultimately looking to get support from the ACCG on the project. UMRWA convened over the past month and final meeting with IRWW MAC plan and updates IRWM plan in Jan 2022, and also moved forward with grant applications under this program for member agencies under Prop 1 program and a DAC drought program.

Kellin Brown – District burning has stopped for the last few weeks due to the warmer weather, but did close to 200 acres of pile burning this winter already and burned a lot of machine piles up on the Cottage sale, but in a stand still until we get more weather. Starting to plan for spring burn in the Arnold-Avery footprint. Mule Deer is moving forward with Phase 2 of their Arnold-Avery project and sending out RFPs.

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Chuck Loffland – Chuck is acting District Ranger for Rick Hopson, Andy Hepshlet is acting head of Timber while Marc Young is on detail. ENF looking to add staffing positions soon. Got some burning done, but since we are now in fire conditions they are up to full staffing. Burning windows may be coming with some precipitation.

Jason Schroeder – Holding off on Lily Gap because of weather/precip. Grant application for Bummerville and AmCo Stewardship Project have been summited, and waiting for news on that.

Leanna Weissberg – (Forester at BLM Motherlode Field Office) in planning phase of timber harvest and some fuels service work on BLM lands in SF Moke area near Cal Am Team FR projects. Now conducting stand exams and gathering inventory data, and thinking about prescriptions. Looking at about 400 acres for NEPA.

Meredith Sierra – FC River cleanup event coming up. Will send flyer to Megan.

Carinna Robertson – Mattley Meadow Restoration Project is moving forward, getting recommended for funding, anticipating starting work on 9/11/2022. McKay Strategic FB currently working on draft CE, still need to do bot and wildfire and arch surveys and hopefully see work on the ground at the end of the field season. There is a huge hiring push right now – 3-4 new foresters and also technicians, and maybe some temp conversions.

Frank Axe – Amador County BOS wrote a letter of support for AB1519 – a bill that would provide subsidies for transportation of biomass-to-biomass facilities, and also recommended that they expand the term biomass facility to include other biomass industries in addition to just energy production (e.g., greener use of materials). Also, home hardening standards in the industry.

### Meeting Participants

Count	Name	Affiliation	Time Committed to Meeting
1	Megan Layhee	ACCG Administrator & Meeting Facilitator	2.5
2	Becky Estes	FS R5 Central Sierra Province Ecologist	1
3	Kellin Brown	USFS STF, Calaveras RD	2.5
4	Richard Sykes	UMRWA	2.5
5	Chuck Loffland	USFS ENF, Amador RD	2.5
6	Michael Pickard	SNC	2.5
7	Nancy Nordensten	ENF	2.5
8	Carinna Robertson	USFS STF, Calaveras RD	2.5
9	Ray Cablayan	USFS STF, Calaveras RD	2.5
10	Meredith Sierra	FC	2.5
11	Gerald Schwartz	EBMUD	1.5
12	John Heissenbuttal	Cal Am Team	2.5
13	Leanna Weisburg	BLM Motherlode	2.5
14	Jason Schroeder	BLM Motherlode	2.5

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15	Rich Farrington	UMRWA Board	2.5
16	Thurman Roberts	CHIPS	2.5
17	Frank Axe	Amador County BOS	2.5
18	Caitlyn Rich	CSERC	2.5
19	Linda Diesem	Private citizen	2.5