# **Forest Projects Plan (FPP) Phase 2: ACCG Planning Work Group Brainstorming Session 1**

**July 27, 2022 Planning Work Group Meeting**

**Background**

Brainstorming Session 1 Objective: In preparation for FPP Phase 2 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, the Planning work group will use this session to begin discussing and formulating potential mutually agreeable project actions, identify specific potential project-related concerns, and then, come up with common-ground solutions to those concerns, all of which the Planning Work Group representatives would bring to the Phase 2 TAC meetings.

Project background (preliminary): at this time, the Phase 2 planning effort is aiming to include the entire Eldorado NF, Amador Ranger District outside of designated wilderness areas and private-land inholdings (approximately 120,000 acres), and to also include approximately 100,000 acres on the Stanislaus NF, Calaveras Ranger District, outside of designated wilderness and private-land inholdings.

Note: below *blue italicized* text are just example text, meant to help aid in work group discussions.

**Potential initial areas of ACCG concern or further discussions needed:**

* **Project scale**
* **Planning document type: programmatic vs. project**
* **Scaled-approach (e.g., multiple RODs under one programmatic EIS)**
* **Proposed actions (see below)**

**I. ACCG mutually agreeable project actions (**[**ACCG Forest Guidance Document**](https://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ACCG-Forest-Treatment-Guidance-PREAMBLE_4-6-21.pdf)**)**

**Note: scale and prioritization of these treatments needs further discussion**

1. *Prescribed fire (with agency approved burn plan).*
2. *Surface and ladder fuels reduction (10” dbh or less, 12” dbh in some instances for operability).*
3. *Fuelbreak construction and maintenance through mechanical and hand treatments.*
4. *Forest thinning (consistent with GTR 220 and 237) through commercial/non-commercial thinning, biomass removal and mastication with the following criteria:*
   1. *less than 20” dbh in PACs and no more than X% of the total acres of a PAC;*
   2. *less than XX” dbh in HRCAs while maintaining at least 50% canopy cover; and*
   3. *less than 30” dbh in the remainder of the general forest.*
5. *Salvage logging along roadsides and fuelbreaks.*
6. *Hazard tree removal from roadsides and developed sites.*
7. *Meadow restoration with no removal of legacy/large trees, not using the pond and plug method, and not in occupied habitat for special status species.*
8. *Aspen restoration when only logging trees less than 30” dbh.*
9. *Herbicide treatment for noxious weed removal (in < XX% of the project area, X feet away from waterbodies).*
10. *Road decommissioning, road reconstruction, and road & culvert maintenance.*
11. *…*

**II. Priority areas for treatment**

*ACCG defers to the USFS and Phase 2 Planning Team to determine the approach for identifying priority areas for treatment, but ask that the proposed approach be vetted through the TAC.*

**III. ACCG potential areas of concern or topics needing further discussion**

1. *Forest thinning of 30” dbh or greater in general forest.*
2. *CSO-/PAC-related concerns:*
   1. *Do we want to perform CSO-related Forest Plan Amendments?*
      1. *Yes –*
      2. *No –*
   2. *Forest thinning of 20” dbh or greater in PACs;*
   3. *Reducing canopy cover in high quality CSO habitat to lower canopy cover class;*
   4. *Reducing canopy cover to less than 50% in CSO HRCAs;*
   5. *CSO-related Forest Plan amendments, including...*
3. *Herbicide treatments for creating or maintaining large fuelbreaks over the long-term.*
4. *Aspen restoration that includes logging legacy trees.*
5. *Forest thinning treatments (i.e., tree cutting and removal) in inventoried roadless areas.*
6. *Salvage logging outside of roadsides and fuel breaks, especially where sensitive wildlife may be affected.*
7. *Permanent new road construction.*
8. *Rare plant habitat used as a staging area.*
9. *Condition-based management for future treatments under the NEPA decision.*
10. *SDI vs NRV?*
11. *Planning spatial modeling: FORSYS, F3 models for scenario planning*
12. *Planning units: Are PODs going to be used as the subwatershed-scale planning unit? Fire management areas?*
13. *Priority areas for treatment (how to define) – communities, fuelbreaks*
14. *Focused analysis in NEPA document*
15. *Planning document type (e.g., programmatic EIS)*
16. *Project scale and timing of project implementation (e.g., 5-10 years)*

**IV. Potential common-ground solutions to overcome above concerns**:

*(1)…*

*(2) Assist USFS and Phase 2 Planning Team define dbh limits and allowable maximum forest thinning treatment acreages in PACs and HRCAs. Also assist USFS and Phase 2 Planning Team define criteria for retiring PACs (e.g., non-occupancy for X years) and other potential Forest Plan amendments…*

*(3) Assist USFS and Phase 2 Planning Team identify acreage limit, temporal constraint, and/or treatment scenario that would be allowable for herbicide use for fuelbreak maintenance.*

*…*