

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

Planning Work Group Zoom Meeting Summary, 08/24/2022, megan.layhee1@gmail.com

Meeting Brief

- Update on FPP Phase 1 and Phase 2 by FPP team.
- Update on ACCG Shared Vision on Tribal Engagement.
- ACCG General Meeting Debrief on August 18th presentation on *Power Fire Fuel Reduction Prioritization Analysis and Strategic Plan*.
- Upcoming general meetings and topics.
- Participant and project-related updates.

Action Items

Actions	Point Person(s)
Post July meeting summary as final to the ACCG website.	Layhee
Check in on status of ENF 2019 LiDAR derived products, particularly the ladder fuel products from Dr. Kane's lab (UW).	Layhee (ongoing)
Follow-up calls with CSERC and FC to ensure the two organizations have the information they need to come to the October Planning WG meeting to provide their recommendation on whether to support Phase 1.	FPP Phase 1 team
Continue internal work group discussion on FPP Phase 2 related topics.	Planning WG
Follow up discussion at an upcoming meeting on how ACCG will engage with Phase 2 TAC (quarterly meetings, may be more frequent early on).	FPP Phase 2 team Planning WG
Continue developing ACCG shared vision on tribal engagement.	R. Farrington M. Sierra Planning WG
Perform follow up on potential upcoming general meeting topics.	Layhee R. Farrington C. Robertson
Continuing communications with Big Trees SP about (1) fall 2022 field tour at the park to see the burn units, and (2) inquire about park staff coming to a general meeting soon to give an update on the winter/spring Rx burn accomplishments.	Layhee (ongoing)

Agenda Review and May Meeting Summary Approval

The Planning Work Group (WG) met via Zoom video-conference. The WG confirmed the August work group agenda, and the July work group meeting summary.

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Update on FPP Phase 1 and Phase 2

Richard Sykes, Karen Quidachay, and Regine Miller

Link to slides: [04-UMRWA FPP PPT 20220824 RM \(3\)](#)

Presentation take-aways:

- FPP Phase 1
 - Current activities: Arch surveys/tribal consultation, compiling BE (wildlife, botany) and other specialist reports (e.g., Management Indicator Species Report, Migratory Bird Report), initiated USFWS **formal** consultation (due to project size, hopefully completed by Nov. 11 and probably sooner), NEPA specialist began drafting decision memo (need FS specialist reports to complete), CEQA specialist tracking SB 901 (scheduled to sunset Dec 31, 2022 – Phase 1 schedule set up to meet)
 - Gave an overview of treatment area acreages and map (see slides 4-5).
 - Reviewed ACCG member changes to proposed action (see slide 6), including (1) reducing project size, (2) reduce proportion of project area proposed for hand treatments only and maximize mechanical treatments, (3) limit tethered mastication, (4) limit timeframe for implementation to 10 years, (5) eliminate/define aspen stands, and (6) do something similar on the Calaveras RD – Phase 2 as quickly as possible.
 - Team wants to understand any remaining ACCG concerns – **Action item: team will have follow-up calls with CSERC and FC to ensure the two organizations have the information they need to come to the October Planning WG meeting to provide their recommendation on whether to support Phase 1.**
- FPP Phase 2
 - Large project evaluation area not necessarily the proposed treatment area (up to 220K acres on Amador RD and Calaveras RD), and also mutually agreeable, mostly agreeable and lacking consistent agreement treatments.
 - Summary of activities to date, including selecting consultant for project management and preliminary environmental planning services (Stantec), and begin to form Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), including Sue Britting (SFL) and Dr. Malcolm North. Team needs a couple more weeks to develop the TAC charter and that will help ACCG members understand how they want to engage – **possible September planning work group meeting to discuss how ACCG will engage with Phase 2 TAC (quarterly meetings, may be more frequent early on).** In addition to monthly updates on Phase 2 at general meetings. Also possibly forming a stakeholder Phase 2 group for those that don't engage with ACCG.

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- Gave an overview of the schedule and timing and a slide of the status of funding. Including FS SPAs and grant funds, including SNC, CA Strategic Growth Council, and hopefully block grant funding.
- Team is reviewing other large landscape projects, including lessons learned from SERAL and North Yuba, and plan to engage with projects in progress and that hopefully the CA Wildfire Task Force will address
- **Forest Plan Amendments for CSO**
 - CSERC -- is not strongly opposed to logging in PACs just need to specific dbh limits back on the 2019 strategy, but have some ideas of potential.
 - Benefits – reduce wildfire
 - Drawbacks – the 2019 strategy doesn't specify dbh limits in PACs and HRCAs; some other organizations had concern with logging in CSO PACs; retiring PACs
 - ENF -- is looking at amendments to more coincide with the 2019 strategy. Important to know if that is where we are headed with Phase 2 because retiring PACs when they are proven to not be occupied (vital to start surveys to initiate that).
 - STF – Forest direction for Phase 2 currently is that CSO FP amendments, and other Phase 2 proposed actions, need to align with the SERA, including SERAL Forest Plan Amendments. Forest is looking to retire PACs in the Bailey and West Calaveras areas on the Calaveras RD.
 - Mechanical treatments area allowed in PACs in WUI defense and threat zones but have severe limitations on altering habitat.
 - Will need a Forest Plan Amendment to alter habitat in PACs...SERAL did surveys ahead of the decision.

Discussion

Participant asked if the Hand Thinning Only treatments will reduce the risk of wildfire and help to minimize risk in the future. The team reiterated that it will minimize the ladder fuel

Participant said appreciated explaining the changes made to the proposed action to the group and that it builds trust and credibility, which is critical.

Question about clarification of what is intended to get done in the 10-year timeframe:

- Richard responded that there are two limiting factors after decision memo is signed: 1() funding, (2) contractor capacity. Already secured funding for about 12% of Phase 1, SNC Concept proposal in for another 10% of work.

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- 10-year timeframe comes from the FS, but especially for prescribed fire the intent would be to use this document for at least 10 years.
- Karen added that NEPA does not expire, however, if there is a wildfire, new species identified, or other change occurs, then further analysis would be conducted to update the NEPA document. The 10-year mark would be a time to regroup and assess whether further analysis is needed.
- UMRWA is not the only one that can implement the project, not just for prescribed fire.
- Chuck added that the FS typically does a NEPA review with changing conditions to understand if it needs updating or no longer valid, and also reminded the group that Phase 1 was once proposed for 100,000 acres and it's now focused on 25,000.
- Regine – timeline for implementing Phase 1 and Phase 2, just because their the lead on NEPA does not mean other partners can come in to ensure implementation being conducted. Also reminded the group that the project scale was reduced to be appropriate for the CE category.
- Meredith – FS resources on ENF vs STF and if the constraints and resources are similar. Chuck said that the two forests plans and resources are similar.

CSERC appreciated that the team reduced the project size to 25K+. CSERC will need to discuss CSERC issues with Phase 2 – scale of the project, timing of project implementation (10 years to do 30K acres of thinning for SERAL) and realistic timeframe to get treatments (probably 50K acres). Richard will have follow-up conversation with CSERC before the

- Chuck in the chat -- It sounds like the comfort level on scale is treatment type sensitive, so fleshing that out would be critical early to start off down the right road on the analysis/planning.

Foothill Conservancy – very appreciated of their concerns being addressed and considered, from what Meredith has discussed internally the timeframe doesn't seem to be a problem.

Question about BE vs. BA and where they are at. BE – covers FS sensitive species, written by UMRWA Consultant and FS will be signing off on it; BA – cover federally listed species that Sara Reece and Jeff Mabe worked on and sent to USFWS.

CSERC would recommend using the SERAL spatial analyses framework.

Update on ACCG Shared Vision on Tribal Engagement

Rich and Meredith gave an update on the status of the Ad Hoc TEK Committee's draft of a proposed ACCG shared vision on TEK and tribal engagement. Comments were received and the

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draft will be presented at the Sept. meeting. Rich, Meredith Sierra (Foothill Conservancy), Thurman Roberts (Washoe Tribe), and Waylon Coats (SNC Tribal Liaison) worked on the draft shared vision together.

Discussion

- Make more clear Action #3, and what pursuing funding and revise Action #2
- **Action item:** Ad hoc will come back to the September meeting with the revised draft

General Meeting Debrief

August 18th general meeting

Group discussed the guest presentation on *Power Fire Fuel Reduction Prioritization Analysis and Strategic Plan*.

Link to report:

Discussion takeaways:

- Are the GIS tools available to the FS yet? – **Action item:** Megan will follow up to see if they are available to utilize for FPP. Work group discussed overlay the power fire plan priority map with the SLAWG map and with FPP.
 - UMRWA submitted SNC concept proposal to funding implementation of Phase 1 and included that is developing an implementation plan and the proposed treatment options in the Power Fire plan should be considered in the Phase 1 implementation plan.
- **Action item:** Check with Michael – about whether the presentation it was recorded.
- What about the \$18 million unspent to restore the Power Fire Area of the \$45 million of PG&E Settlement funding for this purpose? **Action item:** Rich should contact Karl Goodman (acting district ranger) on status of funding to go to Phase 1 and Phase 2

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Upcoming General Meeting Topics & Work Group Ongoing Action Item List

- 9/21/2022 – (Tentative) (1) **Consensus Item** -- Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) Regional Climate Collaboratives Program – UMRWA grant application
- 10/19/2022 (Tentative) – ForSys Model presentation OR Field Tour of Big Trees State Park Prescribed Burn Program with Ben Jacobs
- 11/16/2022 – (Tentative) **Consensus item** – UMRWA-Amador RD seeking ACCG support for Forest Projects Plan (FPP), Phase 1 draft decision

Participant/Project Updates

Next Planning WG meeting is Wed., September 28th, 2022 via Zoom.

Meeting Participants

#	Name	Affiliation	Miles (N/A-online)	Hours
1	Megan Layhee	ACCG Administrator (facilitator)	--	3.0
2	Manny Eicholz	CSERC	--	3.0
3	Meredith Sierra	FC	--	3.0
4	Brian Brown	ENF	--	1.5
5	Rich Farrington	UMRWA Board	--	3.0
6	Regine Miller	UMRWA, Headwaters Environmental	--	2.5
7	Karen Quidachay	UMRWA, Landmark Environmental	--	2.0
8	Richard Sykes	UMRWA	--	3.0
9	Chuck Loffland	ENF, Amador RD	--	3.0
10	Casey Jardine	STF, Calaveras RD	--	2.0
11	Ray Cablayan	STF, Calaveras RD	--	3.0
12	Chris Trott	?	--	2.0
13	Kellin Brown	STF, Calaveras RD	--	2.0
14	Terry Woodrow	CFSC, Alpine Co. BOS, UMRWA Board	--	1.5