

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Brief Summary 6/21/2023, via Zoom and at Calaveras RD Office

Meeting Brief

- Meeting facilitator: John Heissenbuttal
- Guest presentation: Becky Estes, USFS R5 Province Ecologist, Caldor Fire (2021) Post-fire Restoration Framework & Post-fire Opportunities for CA Spotted Owl.
- Guest presentation: UMRWA Aspen Restoration Project team gave an overview of the monitoring, assessment, prioritization and NEPA planning project.
- Discussion on ACCG update at July SCALE meeting.
- Reminder about USFWS program.
- Roundtable updates and Work group updates.

Action Items

Actions	Responsible Parties
Post final versions of meeting agenda and last month's meeting summary to the ACCG website.	Lucke/Layhee
Send higher quality map out to ACCG and request any folks with known aspen locations to work with the team to get that information to them. Have internal conversations about the topic brought up about defining aspen stands.	UMRWA Aspen Restoration Project Team
Michael Pickard will provide the ACCG update at the July SCALE meeting. In prep of that, finalize written update for Michael to read from.	Michael Pickard Admin work group/Layhee
Follow up with Zach Browning and Amanda Watson about SCALE meeting update to be given by Michael Pickard.	Layhee
Follow up with ACCG about USFWS program and cc Rosie.	Layhee

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

No modifications were made to the agenda and the meeting summaries were approved. They also went through introductions.

Presentations & Discussions

Caldor Fire (2021) Post-fire Restoration Framework & Post-fire Opportunities for CA Spotted Owl

- Presenter: Becky Estes, USFS R5 Province Ecologist
- Find the full presentation video recording on the ACCG website [here](#).

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- Becky's presentation slides can be found [here](#).

UMRWA's WCB Aspen Restoration Project

Presenters: Regine Miller, Becky Estes, and Megan Layhee (Other team members not in attendance: Helen Loffland, Karen Quidachay)

The team discussed the UMRWA's Aspen Restoration Planning Project, with Becky presenting on the importance of aspen ecology and the threats it faces. Regine led the presentation on the project's goal of conducting an aspen inventory and assessment, prioritizing restoration, and selecting a minimum of 300 acres cleared for NEPA and CEQA resulting in shovel-ready projects for restoration.

The team discussed the inventory and assessment of aspen stands within the FPP Phase 2 study area, which will be used to prioritize stands for restoration treatments under the NEPA document developed through this grant funding. They also discussed the use of various data sets to determine known and predicted locations of aspen stands, and also mentioned the utility of this inventory and assessment for future planning efforts to identify future stands for treatment.

The team asked for feedback from the ACCG on any additional stands or areas that should be included in the map.

The team discussed the next steps for the project, which included continuing the assessment and monitoring work, developing a prioritization tool, and working with ACCG through the NEPA planning process. There was a discrepancy in the grant termination date, but it was expected to be pushed out one year.

Suggestion was made to see if there's the potential for Amador RD wilderness crews to gather information on aspen while in the field conducting their other field work. It was if there was a similar crew on the Calaveras RD to coordinate efforts with. They also discussed prioritizing the 300-acre plan process while gathering other information for potential treatments.

It was also discussed about coordinating fieldwork and data assessments to maximize information for Phase 2 scenarios, and for other future aspen projects on the districts.

ACCG update at July SCALE meeting

The Admin work group has yet to find an ACCG member attending the SCALE meeting in July to provide the ACCG update. Amanda Watson, Amador FSC, RCD volunteered, but there were concerns about having a non-ACCG member represent them at the scale meeting. Michael Pickard then volunteered to provide ACCG's update at the July SCALE meeting. The Admin work group will work to finalize a written update for Michael to read from at the SCALE meeting.

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USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

In Rosie Gonzales absence, Megan reminded the group about the USFWS partner program, and to share with networks and to have folks that might be interested or anyone with questions to reach out to Rosie Gonzales.

UPDATES

Roundtable

- Chuck Loffland not seeing that much road damage out there and in pretty good shape.
- Carinna Robertson mentioned the Arnold-Avery fuels treatments are almost complete, the McKays FB project will be starting up late July/early August, about 20 acres of prescribed burning going on in the Arnold-Avery Project area (stopped due to the worry of the thick mastication layer) but plan to go back to that in the fall. Forest-wide hazard project has been postponed a bit, because it has shifted from a DNA to EA, and because SERAL 2.0 is ramping up. Couple hazard tree sales/removal starting this summer (awarded last year) in high-elevation campgrounds.
- John Buckley mentioned the Pinecrest/Strawberry-area prescribed fire project (1,500 acres treated) on the Stanislaus NF going on, and discussed some of the examples of the amount of logistics has gone into this effort (e.g., fire crew and Admin staff time, bringing in crews from off-forest), and added that because of the unique weather-related conditions we've had this past winter and spring/early summer has enabled this length of burning possible.
- Emily Graham from Mother Lode Job Training shared information about their forestry corps program, have 35 individuals who have connected with them, orientations are available in person and remotely if you are not in the Sonora area, and also expressed interest in collaborating with natural resources organizations to get these workforces trained up.
- Regine Miller mentioned the existing UMRWA CAL FIRE grant for FPP Phase 1 (first 2K+ acres) and have initiated pre-implementation Arch flagging and some additional Arch surveys, unit boundaries also being flagged., and anticipate releasing the RFP after the executed SPA from ENF. UMRWA just submitted two SNC concept proposals: (1) FPP Phase 1 implementation and (2) FPP Phase 2 planning (including activities leading up to draft EIS – modeling, FWS consultation, specialist reports, and other tasks).
- Becky Estes mentioned the 2023 aspen workshop, set for Sept. 7-8, and that SYRCL on the North Yuba will be hosting it and if ACCG is interested, you will be getting the flyer soon.
- Richard Sykes said that Regine gave a really good update for UMRWA. Additionally, the FPP Phase 2 planning is ongoing. The next TAG meeting will be following the next ACCG general meeting on July 19th.

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Work Group Updates

Admin work group: The group approved the draft June general meeting agenda, also discussed the need to bring the SCALE ACCG update topic up to this group today, and also discussed changing the location of general meetings on the Amador County side from Jackson to Pioneer at the Amador RD office).

Planning work group, Forest Plan Amendment Ad Hoc: The Planning work group met last on May 24th via Zoom and discussed FPP Phase 2 related updates and also about incorporating ACCG's Pyrosilviculture vision statement into Phase 2. The Forest Plan Amendment Ad Hoc met last on June 12th and discussed developing a first-iteration draft consensus-based amendment for FPP Phase 2 on PAC retirement that they would bring to the TAG in July to receive feedback on. They also talked about ongoing monitoring work group updates, including following up on mechanical treatments and getting tangible results to share.

Monitoring work group: met last on June 14th, talked about the Resource Toolkits and GTAC data and modeling as it applies to FPP Phase 2, also talked about the aspen workshop and dates have been set. Update on the Monitoring webpage on the ACCG website. Next meeting is July 12th. Becky added that a lot of the projects initiated (e.g., Hemlock, Foster Firs) have met their first phase of work (implementation) and post-implementation monitoring will begin this season, and working with UC Davis partners to assess results of implementation monitoring.

Next general meeting

Next general meeting will be on July 19th hybrid via Zoom and in person at the Calaveras RD office again, since the FPP Phase 2 TAG meeting will also be held there later that same afternoon.

Meeting Participants

Count	Name	Affiliation	Minutes attended
1	Megan Layhee	Outgoing ACCG Administrator (in person)	180
2	Lisa Lucke	ACCG Administrator (in person)	180
3	John Buckley	CSERC	180
4	Stan Dodson	CSERC	180
5	Kelsey Retich	USFS, STF Calaveras RD	180
6	Carinna Robertson	USFS, STF Calaveras RD	180
7	Michael Pickard	SNC	180
8	Chuck Loffland	USFS, ENF Amador RD	180

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9	Brian Brown	USFS, ENF	180
10	John Heissenbuttel	Heissenbuttel Natural Resource Consulting	180
11	Becky Estes	USFS	180
12	Regine Miller	Headwaters Environmental	149
13	?	Calaveras OES	44
14	Rich Farrington	UMRWA Board, AWA	149
15	Chelsea Lewandowski	CSERC	180
16	Cierra Torrez	CSERC	180
17	Richard Sykes	UMRWA	180
18	Emily Graham	Mother Lode Job Training	123
19	Coleen Shade	Stantec	102
20	Byron Krempl	Krempf Consulting	180
21	Tim Cox	EBMUD	105
22	Kim Morales	USFS	146
23	Aaron James	USFS, STF	180
24	Heather Reith	CA State Parks	123