# **Meeting Brief**

* Meeting facilitator: Michael Pickard
* Meeting virtual host: Megan Layhee
* Presentation: Shared Stewardship & Partnership Coordinators, Michelle Wolfgang (ENF Parentship Coordinator), Zach Browning (Shared Stewardship Advisor for Central Sierra Zone with Sierra Institute), Jason Smith (Southern Sierra Zone Shared Stewardship Advisor through NFWF and partner to FS), Aaron James (Stanislaus NF partnership Coordinator).
* Consensus item: ACCG Forest Plan Amendment Ad Hoc Survey Location Requirement Recommendations for FPP Phase 2.
* Roundtable and Work group updates.

# **Action Items**

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| **Actions** | **Responsible Parties** |
| Post final version of today’s GM agenda and final summary of Jan 2024 GM to the ACCG website. | Lucke |
| Send FS press release on priority landscapes to Lisa to share with ACCG | Layhee |
| Send ACCG draft responses on SOFAR Workforce and Community Development questionnaire to Lisa to solicit additional responses from ACCG | Layhee |
| Send survey location recommendations onto FPP Phase 2 team | Layhee |

**Summary**

**Modification and/or approval of agenda and last month’s meeting summary.**

The meeting’s agenda approved and will be finalized and added to the website. One minor revision was made to the Jan. GM summary, to include Rich F. name in the attendance list at the end of the summary, after which the summary was finalized and will then be added to the website.

**Presentations & Discussions**

**Shared Stewardship & Partnership Coordinator Presentation**

**Presenters**: Michelle Wolfgang (ENF Parentship Coordinator), Zach Browning (Shared Stewardship Advisor for Central Sierra Zone with Sierra Institute), Jason Smith (Southern Sierra Zone Shared Stewardship Advisor through NFWF and partner to FS), Aaron James (STF Partnership Coordinator)

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

**Presentation Brief**

Shared Stewardship Program is in year 3 between State and R5 to treat 1 million acres by 2025 and through that through a grant through NFWF to bring on 4 SSAs (Northern Zone, Central Sierra Zone, Southern Sierra Zone, South Zone). More about a support role for implementation. Menu of services:

* Partnership Agreements: MSA, GNA, participating/cost share
* Funding Coordination and Support: grant proposal review and support, track state and fed funding opportunities, share unique funding opportunities within our zone: Tribal, Direct Spend, etc.
* Project Specific Agreements and Documents: templates for SOW, budget worksheets, project descriptions, best management practices, road maintenance
* Coordination with other Regional Implementation Partners: CAL FIRE, Resources Conversation Districts, Fire Safe Councils, Education partners (e.g., Columbia College), County agencies

USFS Partnership Coordinator Roles

* Partner liaison to Forest, R5, Research Stations and WO
* ID co-management opportunities and resources
* Communicates and cross-pollinates to facilitate cohesion
* Coordinates relationship building
* Co-leads project planning and convening
* Supports grants, agreements and budget needs
* Lead the Stanislaus Recruitment team
* How can I help? Provide partnership support; establish lines of communication; fill in missing links; facilitate outreach and community engagement; assist with workforce development; help navigate the Grants and Agreements process.

**Questions**:

What about G to Z Contracts? Vegetation management on FS lands for layout to implementation (everything after RODs and funding awarded).

* It’s a contracting issue with the FS
* Examples of specific forests currently working to help bridge that communication (e.g., Plumas NF)

How can these roles help the ACCG fund projects, e.g., FPP? And how does ACCG become a priority landscape?

* Was noted during the Roundtable later in the agenda that, yes, FPP is within high risk firesheds (important factor), and that also working at scale in a strategic fashion is another criterion, and working in a collaborative, working with tribes, cross-boundary, and disadvantaged/low-income communities is another criterion.

How to bridge the gap between a project being on a Forests program of work and the project moving ahead.

* It was noted that in the case of FPP, it’s a partnership, and that UMRWA makes the assumption that they have to go after funding to get FPP accomplished, and that the FS provides brings staff time and expertise, at the district, forest and regional levels, to help accomplish the work.

**Consensus Item: ACCG FPP Phase 2 Forest Plan Amendments Ad Hoc Survey Locations Requirements Recommendations**

ACCG provided consensus support of the recommendations presented at the meeting.

**UPDATES**

**Roundtable Updates:**

* John Heissenbuttel: Amador FSC put out RFP ended up having 27 contractors show up and received 15 different bids and 11 were local (Amador, Calaveras, and all counties immediately adjacent). Indication that there is good capacity; split into two contracts. 258 total acres.
* Rich Farrington – UMRWA board met Jan 26th and authorized another implementation grant for FPP Phase 1 (CAL Fire)
* Richard Sykes – one other Forest Resilience Bond with Blue Forest 6-year term 0% interest rate for $4million for cash flow.
* Jim Suero – busy burning a lot of piles at Calaveras Big Trees, crew starts up again in April and prepping for understory burns
* Craig Case – reconfiguring crews for upcoming season, gear prep
* Jason Kuiken – draft SRAL 2.0 EIS is out as of Feb 16 and will close April 1. Work quickly to take comments and make any adjacent. Changes from scoping period include hazard tree removal component was removed and in place will be the forest-wide hazard tree NEPA. Another change is the herbicide use will be in a separate ROD, and one EA ROD for forest thinning, prescribed fire and fuels reduction and one ROD at a later time for herbicide use and salvage and will not the EA determination.
* Carinna Robertson – going over upcoming season and upcoming work including a project with Caltrans for hazard trees removed
* Steve Brink – comment period for FS R5’s Industrial Fire Precaution and Activity Level (IFPAL) Transition. Send info to Megan and Lisa.
* Ray Cablayan - $100 million for wildfire crisis strategy outside of the 21 landscapes, Jason thinks that FPP is competitive for this opportunity into the future
  + - Question about what will make FPP competitive for becoming a future priority landscape during the last discussion topic. Answer from STF: Yes, FPP is in high risk firesheds (important factor), also working at scale in a strategic fashion is another criterion, and working in a collaborative, working with tribes, cross-boundary, and disadvantaged/low-income communities is another criterion.
* Alison Stevenot – STF Sheep Rach Rancheria is a designated tribe in Calaveras. Contact Kathy and Allison for more information.
* Tom Hofstra – introduced himself as CSERC’s new ecologists, worked with CSERC
* Michale Pickard – SNC Strategic Plan is out for public comment (send to Lisa and Megan to share with ACCG), ends March 8th; Board meeting on March 8th with two UMRWA grants for implementation and Phase 2 planning, meeting will be in Sacramento; appears that SNC will not be having a grant round this 2024 calendar year.
* Megan Layhee – Let the participants know that ACCG is in need of an Administrator. Lisa will not be renewing her contract after April.
* Michelle Wolfgang - We may have ability to support the tribal liaison work through HELP's new workgroup which does cover the Amador RD, but not the Calaveras. The workgroup focuses on Central Sierra meadow and aspen recovery and restoration and includes the tribes.

**Admin Work Group update:**

* Discussion about the SOFAR Workforce and Community Development Questionnaire the work group drafted responses to. Megan will forward the draft responses to Lisa to solicit additional response from the full ACCG listserv this week.
* Update on the ACCG website work is underway, contract with Level One Web Design in Sonora to perform site health measures and perform annual site health monitoring.
* C&E plan is up next for the Admin work group.
* Richard Sykes attended the SCALE meeting in January and gave a debrief of the meeting, including the panel that Richard was on about getting to scale with FPP. Also noted that the next SCALE meting is in February. Have Lisa forward the SCALE meeting info to the ACCG.
* Brief discussion about availability and capacity of local contractors to perform the forest health work needed. Comment about project scale is an issue for local contractors. Also, the housing crisis was mentioned as a factor for workforce development.

**Planning Work Group update/Forest Plan Amendment Ad Hoc Group Update:**

* Charged the Forest Plan Amendment Ad Hoc with additional topic to cover apart from FPAs, and that is dbh limits and associated treatment constraints for all land allocations.
* Work group also charged themselves with having discussions and coming up with recommendations for additional FPP Phase 2 topics not covered in the ad Hoc including herbicides.

**Monitoring Work Group update:**

* Guest presentation by Stephanie Coppeto, USFS R5 Regional Monitoring Coordinator overview of the Forest Service Broader Scale Monitoring Plan and ArcGIS online interactive monitoring data hub and trends analysis hub that will role out for the public in April.
* Also made a plug for folks to consider joining the Monitoring Work Group if they aren’t already.

**Next ACCG General Meeting:** March 20, 2024 – Zoom and in person at Amador RD office

# **Meeting Participants**

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| **Name** | **Affiliation** | **Attendance form** |
| Megan Layhee | UMRWA | Virtual |
| Michael Pickard | SNC | In person |
| Allison Stevenot | STF | In person |
| Ray Cablayan | STF | In person |
| Carinna Robertson | STF | In person |
| Aaron James | STF | In person |
| Jason Kuiken | STF | Virtual |
| Steve Brink | California Forestry Associate | In person |
| Jason Smith | TSS Consultants | In person |
| Tom Hofstra | CSERC | In person |
| Stan Dodson | CSERC | In person |
| Richard Sykes | UMRWA | Virtual |
| Rich Farrington | UMRWA | Virtual |
| John Heissenbuttel | Cal Am Team, Heissenbuttel Natural Resources Consulting | Virtual |
| Michelle Wolfgang | ENF | Virtual |
| Linda Helm | ENF | Virtual |
| Craig Case | CHIPS | Virtual |
| James Thornock | ENF | Virtual |
| Chris Trott | CT Bioenergy | Virtual |
| Zach Browning | Sierra Institute | Virtual |
| Jim Suero | CA Big Trees SP | Virtual |
| Helen Loffland | Institute for Bird Populations | Virtual |
| Mary Boblet | Private citizen | Virtual |