

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

Planning Work Group Meeting Brief Summary, 07/24/2024, megan.layhee1@gmail.com

Meeting Brief

- Continued discussions on UMRWA-USFS MAC project and potential use of herbicides for fuelbreak maintenance and invasive species management.
- Brief discussion on ACCG hosted field trip for 2024.
- Brief discussion on upcoming General Meeting Topics.

Action Items

Actions	Point Person(s)
Post final versions of meeting agenda and last month's meeting summary after the correction is made.	Layhee
<p>MAC Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow up with Matt Brown about the edits made to Section II of [draft] ACCG Planning Work Group Herbicide Recommendations as it pertains to broadcast application.• Forecast the amount of herbicide application needed in the FB network per year. Suggestion was made to maybe use recent treatments (e.g., FPP Phase 1) to understand what proportion of those treatments would benefit from follow-up herbicide treatments.• Project team clarify with STF staff on whether they would like to see herbicides for maintenance for fuelbreaks in the MAC project• Confirm with STF staff the removal of all chemicals listed, with exception of glyphosate and triclopyr, under types of herbicides for fuelbreak maintenance under ACCG Alternative C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Layhee• FS staff• MAC Project team• MAC Project team
Continue planning for ACCG September field trip	Layhee Amador RD staff

Housekeeping

- Agenda approved. Minor edit to the May 2024 meeting summary, after which was approved.
 - *Change in May meeting summary: UMRWA Aspen Project Team consider CSERC's suggestion to including additional sentence in proposed action, "Thus fencing would be normally in place ~~no more than~~ for 5 years".*
- Joe Stout leaving FS returning to BLM. Looking for new ENF Forest Supervisor, will have an acting Forest Supervisor in the meantime, that person is TBD.

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MAC Project

Herbicide use for invasive species management:

- Support for herbicides invasive weed management since it's the third-tier option and a limited amount of area within the project area.
- However, group made minor changes made to section II as it pertains to broadcast application.
- **Action item:** Megan to follow up with Matt Brown about the edits made to Section II of [draft] ACCG Planning Work Group Herbicide Recommendations as it pertains to broadcast application.

Herbicide use for fuelbreak maintenance:

- Group reviewed the first iteration 1-000-ft wide MAC fuelbreak network with inner core (0-300 ft), totaling approximately 9,500 acres across both districts, and an outer core (300-1,000 ft), totaling approximately 16,900 acres across the two districts.
- CSERC noted that they would not accept 1,000 acres per year of herbicide application for fuelbreak maintenance on each District, as it's written in the meeting material 03. Proposed replacing that with "a few hundred acres per year" per District under Alternative C in the meeting material 03. CSERC also noted that Rx fire would be the preference for maintaining FBs. Reality might be that the environmental groups may not support any level of herbicide application for fuelbreak maintenance in the MAC Project, but that perhaps the ACCG could provide consensus support on every other component of the proposed action with the exception of herbicides.
- Other track changes made to [draft] ACCG Planning Work Group Herbicide Recommendations:
 - Remove broadcast application as tool for herbicides for fuelbreak maintenance under ACCG Alternative C and D.
 - Remove all chemicals with exception of glyphosate and triclopyr under types of herbicides for fuelbreak maintenance under ACCG Alternative C. Confirm with STF staff (**action item**).
- Longevity of effectiveness of the different treatment types was discussed. FS (Loffland) observation is that the burning/mastication/hand treatments are effective for 2-3 years, herbicide is effective after the initial treatment more like 5-7 years or more, based on what I've seen in Panther and other project areas. One of the other goals of using herbicide was to try to convert the understory veg. from taller/higher fire effect species (manzanita, deer brush) to lower growing herbaceous species (bear clover).
- Discussion on whether we should prioritize or tier fuelbreak maintenance treatment types, like we did for invasive species management. Fuels staff noted that the most appropriate

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- It was requested that the FS staff forecast for the next 5 years (or beyond that) of the amount of herbicide application needed in the FB network per year (**action item**). Suggestion was made to maybe use recent treatments (e.g., FPP Phase 1) to understand what proportion of those treatments would benefit from follow-up herbicide treatments. It was highlighted that on the ground conditions should dictate what acreage of the fuelbreak maintenance should herbicides be applied to, not just an arbitrary proportion of the total network. Also, highlighted that a max acreage for the 10-year project life span that has to be analyzed for MAC Project NEPA.
- SERAL 2.0 ROD not including herbicides for fuelbreak maintenance was noted during the meeting. **Action item:** project team get clarity from STF staff on whether they would like to see herbicides for maintenance for fuelbreaks in the MAC project.

ACCG 2024 Field Trip

Modifications made to draft field trip itinerary during the meeting, including minimizing the number of stops down to 5 and potentially one of those being optional.

Action item: Megan will continue to work with ENF staff on field trip specs.

Meeting Participants

#	Name	Affiliation
1	Megan Layhee	ACCG Administrator, UMRWA, meeting facilitator
2	Linda Helm	ENF, Amador RD
3	Chuck Loffland	ENF, Amador RD
4	John Buckley	CSERC
5	Stan Dodson	CSERC
6	Zac Croyle	STF, Calaveras RD
7	James Thornock	ENF, Amador RD
8	Marc Young	ENF
9	Tom Hofstra	CSERC
10	Rich Farrington	UMRWA, AWA