**MEETING BRIEF**

* Meeting facilitator: Chuck Loffland
* Consensus item: Letter of support for NASA A.60 funding opportunity for aspen project
* Forest Service general update
* UMRWA-USFS MAC Project update
* Work Group updates
* Roundtable
* Presentation by Dr. Scott Stephens, UC Berkeley

**ACTION ITEMS**

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| **Actions** | **Responsible Parties** |
| Post agenda and last month’s general meeting summary as final to the website. | Layhee |
| Share Dr. Scott Stephen’s presentation on the ACCG website. | Layhee |

**MEETING OPENING/HOUSEKEEPING**

Draft agenda and last month’s meeting summary approved. One minor edit was made to the meeting summary. Administrator will post the final versions to the ACCG website.

**CONSENSUS ITEM – Letter of support for NASA A.60 funding opportunity for aspen project**

The group discussed the letter of support for the NASA A.60 funding opportunity, and questions were addressed by Chuck and Helen. Following the discussion, Chuck asked if there were any changes or objections to the letter. No changes or objections were made so the letter of support was approved to go forward.

**FOREST SERVICE GENERAL UPDATE**

Richard discussed Phase I implementation. UMRWA will have four contractors working in the Amador Ranger District. Work could begin as soon as April with the aim of completing around 4,000 acres of fuel reduction work. Additional grants and work worth five to six million dollars will go out to bid this year. The Cal Fire grant includes the Washoe Tribe, CHPS, and the Miwok Tribe.

**UMRWA-USFS FPP, MAC PROJECT UPDATE**

Richard discussed the MAC project which continues to move forward; currently looking at comments from the NOI and using them to develop the proposed action; currently in the process of hiring a tribal liaison with interviews to be held later this month; Ty McCarthy is the new monitoring coordinator.

## **WORK GROUP UPDATES**

* The Admin Workgroup met on February 10th via Zoom and approved the agenda for this meeting; discussed Char following up with Craig Ostergaard for the March SPI grazing presentation, and with Brian Allen for the April presentation; ACCG administration long term funding was also addressed.
* The Planning Workgroup met via Zoom and discussed fuel break widths which they plan to bring to the full ACCG for approval.
* The Forest Plan Amendments Ad hoc Workgroup met via Zoom and worked on DBH limits for the MAC project.
* The Monitoring Workgroup met on February 12th in-person and worked on data validation for the vegetation layers for the modeling/analysis for the MAC project and a contingency plan if the data validation fails; discussed the monitoring plan for the MAC project and Aspen working group. The new monitoring coordinator is working on developing the monitoring plan.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

All - A discussion took place regarding the challenges faced by the Forest Service due to funding issues and layoffs. In addition, concern was conveyed regarding the future of the funding of the Secure Rural Schools Act.

Carinna Robertson – Currently burning this week, PG&E is working along their power lines to remove hazardous trees and there is a push for them to address fuels that were left behind over the years; Carinna is doing a presentation for the SNC field tour on March 5th; and currently evaluating soil conditions for mastication.

Michael Pickard – The SNC field tour is on March 5th which includes visiting the Arnold Avery project and Big Trees; a reception follows at Ironstone; and the SNC board meeting is at 9am the next day at Ironstone; a Prop 68 grant round will open this summer for recreation projects only.

Chuck Loffland - Pile burning and OMO ranch mastication is going on; the MAC project is the focus for other staff; the latest version of the LOP language was sent to the MAC team.

Jeff Mabe – The FWS has suffered a significant hit, and as such, MAC projects may take a lot longer to go through consultation.

Helen Loffland – Helen will have reports to share (soon) regarding work performed in the area of BLM last spring; automated recording units were placed to look for owls and they picked up some spotted and great gray owls; the Aspen project wrapped up last year.

John Heissenbuttel – The Fire Safe Council meets today at 3pm at the Volcano Communications Center in Pine Grove. Lots of grants are going on and there is a town hall meeting for the Volcano Hills fuel break project this evening.

Richard Sykes – Discussion at the last UMRWA meeting included a two-year continuation of the stewardship program through the Motherlode Land Trust; there will be a meeting in Sonora to hear more about a biomass initiative that the state is looking at; more information will follow.

Matt Brown – Matt has lost two of his botany crew members due to the latest round of firing.

Anna Bonette – Anna and the new botanist are updating their forest evasive plant list.

Amanda Watson – We have lots of projects ending in February through March; several projects are starting, including the Volcano Hills fuel break project; there is a town hall meeting this evening at the Masonic Lodge in Volcano.

Marc Young – The last of the logs were hauled from the Panther Project last week; there are staffing concerns for timber sales; working with American Forest to award an herbicide contract for the power fire.

Jason Kuiken – Lots of things are in flux right now; partners such as UMRWA are critical to the success in the long term; looking to find new ways to do critical work.

Rosie Gonzalez – Rosie stated that they have lost some employees.

**GUEST PRESENTATION**

Mass fire behavior created by tree mortality/density presentation by Dr. Scott Stephens, UC Berkeley.

Go to the ACCG website to view Dr. Stephen’s presentation: <https://acconsensus.org/resources/videos/>

**MEETING CLOSE**

**Next general meeting:** The next meeting is March 19th, 2025, hybrid via Zoom and in person at the Calaveras RD office in Hathaway Pines. Carinna Robertson will facilitate.

# **MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

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| **Count** | **Name** | **Affiliation** |
| 1 | Chuck Loffland | USFS, ENF, Amador RD (in person) |
| 2 | Dr. Scott Stephens | UC Berkeley |
| 3 | Stan Dodson | CSERC (in person) |
| 4 | Helen Loffland | IBP |
| 5 | Michael Pickard | SNC (in person) |
| 6 | Kelsey Retich | USFS, STF |
| 7 | John Buckley | CSERC (in person) |
| 8 | Steve Brink | California Forestry Association (in person) |
| 9 | John Heissenbuttel | NRC |
| 10 | Jeff Mabe | USFS, ENF, Biologist |
| 11 | Matt Brown | USFS |
| 12 | Char Sarkis | Incoming ACCG Administrator (in person) |
| 13 | Jason Kuiken | USFS, SNF |
| 14 | Rosie Gonzalez | USFS Biologist |
| 15 | Linda Diesem | private citizen, District 2, Calaveras |
| 16 | Carina Robertson | USFS, STF, Calaveras RD (in person) |
| 17 | Chris Shull | Mason, Bruce and Girard |
| 18 | Rich Farrington | AWA, UMRWA Board member (in person) |
| 19 | Richard Sykes | UMRWA |
| 20 | Allison Stevenot | USDA |
| 21 | Anna Bonnette | Botanist |
| 22 | Tom Hofstra | CSERC (in person) |
| 23 | Marc Young | USFS, ENF, Amador RD |
| 24 | Amanda Watson | Amador Fire Safe Council |
| 25 | Anne Calderwood | Beaver Restoration Group |
| 26 | Marie Davis | PCWA |
| 27 | James Thornock | USFS, ENF, Amador RD (in person) |