**MEETING BRIEF**

* Meeting facilitator: Stan Dodson
* Presentation by Brian Allen, UCCE, Assistant Specialist for El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras & Tuolumne Co.
* Roundtable
* DBH limit recommendations for the UMRWA-USFS MAC Project
* UMRWA-USFS MAC Project update
* Work Group updates

**ACTION ITEMS**

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

**MEETING OPENING/HOUSEKEEPING**

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

**GUEST PRESENTATION**

## Vegetation Control on masticated fuel breaks study. Presentation by Brian Allen, UCCE.

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

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Chuck Loffland – the FPP I Burnbot operations meeting is today; currently going into fuel season; snow level is around 6,000 feet; and I will be retiring at the end of the month.

Linda Helm – we’re going to really miss Chuck; he has been with the Forest Service since 1989; valued for his extensive knowledge and as a mentor to me; our Silviculture program is underway and GBI is working with us on that.

Marc Young – the Caldor decision was signed a few weeks ago; mechanical treatments may start this year through GBI; no active timber sale projects on this District this year; Panther project wrapped up this winter, there will be follow up fuels reduction work through the timber sale contract.

John Heissenbuttel – the Amador Fire Safe Council monthly meeting is this afternoon at 3pm, likely a virtual meeting, there will be a guest speaker from State Farm Insurance discussing the future of fire insurance in our area; we are about to start a thinning operations funded by SNC on Buckhorn Ridge which will finish off a county wide treatment of 13 different patches of BLM lands that are anchor points for potential new fuel breaks to be expanded.

John Buckley – with dry weather in past months and snow melting fast, we’re looking at fuel breaks; crews are working on the SERAL project; ramping up our wildlife surveys; we’re doing some initial noxious week removal; repairing fences as spring provides access; Chelsea on our staff is organizing restoration volunteer work days; we will be doing watch dog monitoring of treatments on the Stanislaus forest; dealing with access issues due to lots of roads not opening until May 31st.

Michael Pickard – the Governor signed a bill on Monday removing CEQA from any fuel reduction projects, CEQA has been waived, accepting applications until Dec 31st; SNC getting 30 million, not sure about the rollout yet.

Carinna Robertson – new acting District Ranger Andy Welsch starts Monday; ground operations – PG&E is removing hazard trees along power lines that run along Hwy 4; Last Chance mastication is starting back up; McCay’s is starting back up with dryer weather; put out an RFP for the Arnold Avery plantation, 144 acres of mastication to be done; forest hazard NEPA - no update on signing yet; some roads are open, anything above Dorrington is still under snow, we are monitoring roads as snow melts, Hwy 4 plowing has started, no pedestrian or bike traffic allowed this year due to liability issues.

Anna Bonnette – the Stanislaus has only one threatened species which is white bark pine; Regions 1, 2, & 4 have come out with a final draft for the biological assessment for white bark pine to mitigate any damages w/o harming populations throughout forest activities; protection managements are vague but look good.

Linda Diesem – thank you to Chuck and best wishes in retirement.

Brian McCrory – SPI agreement for fuel break work on Calaveras District; some projects that MAC will be covered by will be brought up more in the future.

Chris Shull – congratulations to Chuck on his retirement.

Dan Alvey – NFF is hiring for a coordinator for Tahoe and Eldorado NF; been working with Rob from UMRWA to work under existing stewardship agreement on FFPI and FPPII MAC.

Erin Livernois – the RFP for the San Andreas fuel break was put out today; the fuels reduction project on Moke Hill is getting started up this week, as well.

Jim Junette – many leadership changes on the forest, Andy Walsh is the new District Ranger, Brian is the acting Deputy Forest Supervisor; looking at vegetation mgmt. as a priority; focusing on SERAL implementation and MAC/NEPA; more personnel changes coming; congratulations to Chuck on his retirement.

Michael Jow – congratulations to Chuck; Jason Kuiken is the Acting Regional Forester, MAC is on Jason’s radar; dealing with less forest service personnel, key vacancies, and trying to fill gaps.

Rich Farrington – congratulations to Chuck and thank you for your great assistance to us in the conservation project with the Aspens; the next UMRWA board meeting is on the 25th at 10am, via zoom or in person.

Tom Hofstra – congratulations to Chuck on his retirement.

**DBH limit recommendation for the UMRWA-USFS MAC PROJECT**

Megan reviewed DBH limit recommendations (item 5) on today’s agenda; this was originally a consensus item, but it is just an update representing MAC today; this originally came from the ACCG forest plan amendment ad hoc group which is a sub group of the planning workgroup; they have been meeting for over a year and a half; DBH limits have come up and the planning work group asked that the ad hoc develop DBH limit recommendations for the entire MAC project area, we realize there is some discomfort with some of these DBH limits; UMRWA is looking for ACCG overall support for the DBH limits, not necessarily full endorsement, but perhaps an overall agreement on these DBH limits; the MAC project team is intending to bring this proposed action to the full ACCG when it is fully developed.

**UMRWA-USFS MAC PROJECT UPDATE**

Presenter: Megan Layhee

Phase I:

Burnbot for Hwy 88 is finishing work this summer; over 2200 acres on Hwy 88; Arbor will continue this summer; contractors are Market and GTS forestry for roadside fuels reduction work; in total Arbor is just over 3,000 acres; funding by Cal Fire; the Birch project is funded by SNC; work started last season and continues; contractors are Redding Tree Growers and GTS Forestry; includes 1500 acres; some surplus funding is available through the UMRWA grant for additional acreage under the birch grant; the Cedar Project is funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board, it is yet TBD who will go under contract; an item on the UMRWA Board mtg includes 10 acres to go to the Washoe Tribe; an application was submitted to Cal Fire in January to perform the Dogwood project; 1200 acres total; we’ve been recommended for the award; the Cedar South Project is TBD for when, how, and what funds will be awarded.

MAC:

Currently working on the proposed action for the MAC project and will bring it to the full ACCG at a later time; there is a plan to host a stakeholder mtg., more to come on that; rerunning forces modeling for the MAC project, the team is developing input parameters and finalizing them right now; anticipate a draft EI statement this year; there is a pot of funds for MAC planning; still working with the ACCG Monitoring Workgroup on the monitoring strategy; a series of in person hybrid meetings are coming; the new Tribal Liaison Liam Walsh was just hired this month and he will start soon; he will work with the MAC tribal team, etc.

## **WORK GROUP UPDATES**

* The Admin Workgroup met on April 7th via Zoom and approved the agenda for this meeting. The current big task is the ACCG administration long term funding plan. Initial discussions have been conducted with the Admin Workgroup and a special session has been scheduled via Zoom for later this month to draft the long-term funding plan. Megan and Char are also working with the full ACCG listserv to reach out to current members and non-members to update the membership and listserv. and to solicit any interest in new membership. MOA language states that there needs to be regular participation by members so Char and Megan will reach out to members who haven’t participated in a while. The next Admin WG meeting is on May 12th, 2025.
* The Planning Workgroup met via Zoom on Wednesday, March 26th. Finalized DBH limits; updates regarding the MAC project fuel break network; and map and acreage estimates for the revised fuel break network; presented proposed fuel break widths, received feedback over large fuel break widths from CSERC; more to come. No ad hoc update, last mtg was in February. Next meeting TBD.
* The Monitoring Workgroup will meet in May, and the location is TBD. Currently working on the questions for MAC.

**MEETING CLOSE**

**Next general meeting:** The next meeting is May 21st, 2025, hybrid via Zoom and in person at the Calaveras RD office in Hathaway Pines. Michael Pickard will facilitate.

# **MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Count** | **Name** | **Affiliation** |
| 1 | Megan Layhee | Acting ACCG Administrator, UMRWA |
| 2 | Brian Allen | UCCE (in person) |
| 3 | Stan Dodson | CSERC (in person) |
| 4 | Linda Helm | USFS, ENF, Amador RD (in person) |
| 5 | Michael Pickard | SNC (in person) |
| 6 | Marc Young | USFS, ENF (in person) |
| 7 | John Buckley | CSERC (in person) |
| 8 | Chuck Loffland | USFS, ENF, Amador RD (in person) |
| 9 | John Heissenbuttel | NRC (in person) |
| 10 | Ann Heissenbuttel | NRC (in person) |
| 11 | Erin Livernois | CCRCD |
| 12 | Char Sarkis | Incoming ACCG Administrator (in person) |
| 13 | Brian McCrory | USFS, STF, Calaveras RD |
| 14 | Sue Holper | private citizen, ACCG member |
| 15 | Linda Diesem | private citizen, District 2, Calaveras |
| 16 | Carinna Robertson | USFS, STF, Calaveras RD (in person) |
| 17 | Chris Shull | Mason, Bruce and Girard |
| 18 | Rich Farrington | AWA, UMRWA Board member |
| 19 | Michael Jow | USFS, STF, Calaveras RD |
| 20 | Jim Junette | USFS, STF |
| 21 | Anna Bonnette | Botanist |
| 22 | Tom Hofstra | CSERC |
| 23 | Dan Alvey | NFF |
| 24 | Meredith Dean | Restore the Stanislaus |
| 25 | Anne Calderwood | Beaver Restoration Group |
| 26 | Michelle Wolfgang | USFS, ENF |
| 27 | Jeff Mabe | USFS, ENF |