

# SOFAR Landscape Vision Committee

## Meeting Notes

Participants: Rob Allan, Steve Brink, Ben S., Craig T., Chris D, Jenn D., Dan C., Heather C., Richard T, Norma, Becky, Melanie Rossi (FS GIS Specialist), Gina

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

### Next

- Expect site visit to Caples on 10/11
- Next meeting is 10/25 @ 1:00-4:00
- Expect to present draft desired conditions to full Collaborative in November

### Action Items

All Actions **by Oct 19** (unless otherwise noted)

- **Chris** – share North and Eric Knapp and O’Hara with study (DONE)
- **BEN** - Put zone definitions at the beginning of the Google document
- **SPI/ Chris** will be able to work on industrial elements (in **November**)
- **Heather** - (Fire Safe Councils) identify desired conditions to integrate small non-industrial **private landowners**, isolated parcels
- **Dan** will identify / pull out infrastructure – for utility and other infrastructure transportation corridors; Check in with SMUD and PG&E
- **Melanie** will put together revised map on defense and WUI
- **Ben or Jenn** will provide Melanie zone definitions,
- **Melanie**, existing and recent projects (Jenn and Melanie will walk thru the existing)

### Future Agenda Items

- Discuss detailed information of General Sherman area in November or soon thereafter
- Discuss current assessment of communities’ fire readiness status

### Desired Conditions

The group identified issues to discuss:

- Specificity of desired conditions (e.g. flame lengths, quantitative)
- Do we need specific criteria for industrial forests or can they/would they tier to broader descriptions? Same plantations?
- Define the zones, give general description or example to help reader

## **Specificity of Desired Condition**

In threat zone, group agreed to introduce greater variability for flame length (currently said 4-foot flame lengths) because so much of the SOFAR landscape is threat zone– the group needs to think about exact values.

The Spatial Information Group did lots of work for Fire Adapted 50 on fuel and fire behavior. They modeled fire behavior across the landscape, including where to expect flame lengths greater than 2 meters.

## **Industrial Forests and Private Landowners**

Current draft of Desired Conditions lacks information for industrial and private landowners, which will both be very different from Forest Service lands.

SPI follows Forest Practice Rules, which the State of California defines. Timber Harvest Plans are on record with the state for 7 years. SPI defines land use by watersheds (CalWater v.2), which is different than the FS, with firebreak locations, defensible fuel zones defined by Forest Practice Rules (state of CA), approved by CalFire. For example, General Sherman project are in 3 different watersheds for them. SPI tends to work in 4-acre grids and revisit the plot every 5-10 years. Actual unit work defined by the Forester on the ground. Commercial thin, clear cut, fuel break zones the three different treatments. When adjacent to a community (e.g. Sly Park), vegetation management plan developed to protect areas (e.g. Fire Adapted 50).

Fire Adapted 50 and Spatial Information Group (SIG) modeled all fire behavior for current conditions within that project area

In the fuel breaks / defense zones, there are a lot of common practices.

Everyone agreed on need to add more descriptions within each cell - some for FS, some for industry, some for private; CalFire, etc.; not necessarily a new column or new row.

Quincy Library Group Pilot Program could be a potential example for all lands approach.

SPI can provide input on those items that are relevant, but inaccurate for industrial later this fall, probably in November. Another option is to pull industrial plans from state records (**THP, Google Earth, CalFire Watershed Mapper**) to see across all lands.

Heather is willing to provide input for the small landowner who might have 100 acres.

## **Utility**

Dan will look at the desired conditions and make sure they reflect the goal of fire moving through without interrupting service and other areas where water objectives are paramount.

Jenn added a row for infrastructure (power lines, canals, etc.) - use one row for all utilities

## **Zone Definitions**

Ben offered to put the definitions of zones in the Google Doc to help orient the reader.

### Next Steps

- AGREE: Pull out some specific elements in “General Forest Condition” for **industrial lands** and **small private landowners**. Chris can work on this in November; Heather will work on this in October.
- CHANGE Needed: In threat zone, introduce greater variability for flame length – the group needs to think about exact values.
- Mel will build a map of new WIU zones for ENF within the SOFAR area for the Landscape Committee.

### General Sherman Project Strategy

SPI described their operations, immediate plans, and long-range approach in the area:

- Can tolerate 0% mortality due to fire; moving away from using fire.
- Now using a process to reincorporate slash into soil rather than pile burning, etc.

What are the objectives of the Sherman project as they relate to the Landscape Committee input?

- For project development, follow Meadow Valley area (pilot project) using a variety of treatments to mimic heterogeneity, increase variation (group selection, i.e., tiny clear cut, allowing natural regeneration with some stocking if necessary), which will change and mitigate fire behavior. Debate as to full outcome of that project on desired conditions.
- Would like to be intentional about where to land those gaps, say on a young to mid-aged stand of white fir (like stop 1 on the field trip) or areas that would historically have greater openings, mimic ecological patterns. Consider group selection via forest practice rules. Mimics the idea of small patches of mortality except that biomass and snags are removed. Could also provide a research opportunity.
- Consider moving the area from white fir to pine. Removing the larger trees of white fir to introduce pine might be an option, even using group selection.
- Alder Ridge is important for the EID watershed and might need some treatment.
- Request for studies linking group selection and resilience - Chris to provide

### Next Steps

ACTION: Chris will share North and Eric Knapp and O’Hara with study

Exact conditions of the project area, maybe in November. Would like to hear from the collaborative would like to see out there. Specifics, such as this area might be a space for gap

Request for details of species composition, current conditions, maps, walking the landscape so the group knows better the area and what could be needed. Perhaps get information ready for November Landscape meeting? Other winter meeting? To help the group understand or suggest proposed activities and bring collaborative into process.