



- Cohesive Strategy Goals**
- Resilient Landscapes •
  - Safe & Effective Wildfire Response •
  - Fire Adapted Communities •

## Collaborative Group - Meeting Summary

Meeting held February 14, 2018  
 Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute

### Meeting in Brief

At the second SOFAR Collaborative meeting of 2018, participants reviewed the SOFAR 2018 Collaborative Work Plan based on collaborative input in January ([view Work Plan on web or below](#)). In 2018, the Collaborative will focus on establishing priorities and developing projects for the SOFAR landscape, continue working to advance forest products infrastructure, and engage and share information with local communities and executives regarding cohesive strategy goals.

To further project planning, SOFAR is organizing a meeting of land managers to identify priority areas to develop cohesive strategy projects. The Collaborative will review these priorities at its March 14 meeting.

The Amador Calaveras Consensus Group shared their experience with successful grant writing for forestry work on private lands ([view presentation](#)).

The SOFAR Collaborative will next meet on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 1:30-4:30 pm at Office of Emergency Services. At its March meeting, the Collaborative will further discuss what is considered a SOFAR Cohesive Strategy Collaborative project. The Landscape Vision Committee will next meet on Thursday, February 22, 1:00-4:00 pm.

### Action Items

| Who        | What  |
|------------|---|
| Eric Brown | Post and circulate CPUC Fire Threats map (complete: <a href="#">PDF</a>   <a href="#">shapefile</a> ) |
| CBI        | Broaden second goal of 2018 Work Plan to "Forest Products Infrastructure" (complete)                  |
| CBI        | Post 2018 Work Plan and CalAm presentation to SOFAR website (complete)                                |

## Meeting Summary

### Introduction

The Cohesive Strategy is an all-lands approach to achieve the goals of resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities and safe and effective wildfire response. As

described in the SOFAR charter, the Collaborative is charged with shared problem solving, identifying areas of agreement, and moving forward in such a way that meets all interests in the room. While the Eldorado National Forest serves as convener of the Collaborative, all participants have ownership over the Cohesive Strategy process and projects.

## **2018 Collaborative Work Plan**

CBI synthesized input from the January meeting into a 2018 Work Plan that helps realize the goals of the Cohesive Strategy. The Steering Committee vetted the draft Work Plan in advance of the February Collaborative meeting and now seeks Collaborative approval of the Work Plan ([view Work Plan](#)).

The three themes of the Work Plan, outlined below, include landscape priorities and projects; forest products infrastructure (changed from biomass infrastructure); and education and engagement to build fire resilient communities.

## 1. Landscape Priorities + Projects

**Principle:** Prepare a pipeline of near-term, shovel-ready projects while conducting long-term analysis and planning.

### December 2018 Outcomes

- Finalize Landscape Strategy
  - Develop framework for effective collaborative project development
  - Identify priorities in implementation plan
  - Prepare one community-based project (e.g. Pollock Pines)
  - Prepare one forest resilience project
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## 2. Forest Products Infrastructure

**Principle:** Advance forest products infrastructure, including biomass technologies and pilots.

### December 2018 Outcomes

- Develop biomass strategic plan
  - Implement pilot project
- 

## 3. Education + Engagement to Build Fire Resilient Communities

**Principle:** Conduct education and outreach at multiple levels, among land management leaders and residents of the SOFAR watershed.

### December 2018 Outcomes

- Refine and implement outreach and engagement plan
- Convene meeting of executive sponsors before July to advance SOFAR goals and action
- Hold five public workshops and conduct other outreach to increase resident understanding about fire-adapted communities and action around their homes
- Continue to refine website as resource hub for interested parties

## Collaborative Planning Processes

Given that the Landscape Vision Committee's landscape analysis will take another six months to complete, Collaborative participants see value in **near-term efforts to identify priority project areas and establish shovel-ready projects that can secure funding** as it becomes available. The Collaborative will bring this to fruition through an ad hoc workshop for SOFAR land managers on February 28. At the ad hoc workshop, land managers will identify and engage in focused discussion around near-term priority areas and projects, including projects that are currently in the pipeline and ready to receive near-term funding.

The Collaborative distinguished between the following **tiers in the project pipeline**:

- (1) Projects that are / will be through NEPA/CEQA by 5/2018 (*shovel ready*)
- (2) Projects that are in planning and ready for NEPA/CEQA analysis
- (3) Project areas that need to be prioritized to get them into planning

## Discussion

Local Fire Safe Councils have an existing pipeline of shovel-ready projects; these projects tend to have budgets of up to \$200k, and thus are on the smaller size (roughly 100 acres). Similarly, CAL FIRE has an existing pipeline of projects that have completed CEQA and are partially funded. In addition to projects in the pipeline, much work is already happening on the landscape; to this end, a participant suggested that the Collaborative establish a clear sense of what is already happening on the ground a look at opportunities for efficiency. A participant emphasized the importance of leveraging support and resources from utilities and noted that PG&E and SMUD have a shared interest in vegetation management along transmission corridors.

CAL FIRE and CPUC recently completed a **statewide fire threat map** (link: [PDF | shapefile](#)), which participants will utilize to prioritize treatment areas at the upcoming ad hoc land managers workshop,

Several Collaborative participants highlighted the importance of looking **beyond property boundaries** and instead focusing on what management actions are needed and where they are most needed. Additionally, participants spoke to the importance of **nimbleness in project planning and implementation**, due to unpredictable factors such as climate change, drought, and insect and disease epidemics.

Participants noted that the Rio Bravo Rocklin biomass facility in Lincoln, CA, now requires a steady supply of forest biomass feedstock. The facility was converted from an urban plant to a forest biomass plant. The plant requires 60% forest feedstock this year and 80% next year (150k bone-dry tons annually). As a point of comparison, the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) produces 55k bone dry tons per year, and the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) produces 35k bone dry tons per year.

## Next Steps

CBI, Kendal Young, and Duane Nelson will move forward with organizing that ad hoc SOFAR Land Managers workshop to identify priority projects and areas on the SOFAR landscape. At the March Collaborative meeting, participants will review input from the ad hoc workshop and offer guidance on new projects. Also at the March meeting, Collaborative participants will further consider how existing work on the SOFAR landscape fits into the Cohesive Strategy and what it means to be a SOFAR project.

## Lessons from the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group Forestry Team

[View presentation](#). Representatives from the Calaveras Amador (CalAm) Forestry Team - John Heisenbuttel, Jan Bray, Pat McGreevy, and Gordon Long presented on their work in the Mokelumne Watershed, with the goal of **supporting fire safe communities** in Amador and Calaveras counties and **improving forest and rangeland health** in the surrounding the communities.

To this end, the CalAm group is actively involved in grant writing, planning and coordination, consulting, public education, and capacity building.

### Grant Writing

To date, the group has secured approximately \$10 million through grant writing. The CalAm group does not have non-profit status; rather, the group writes grants for projects led by other entities (Fire Safe Councils, Calaveras and Amador Counties, local resource conservation districts, etc.), which in turn manage the grant administration.

| Objective                   | Sponsor  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Fuels/Hazard Tree Reduction | SRA<br>Cal-FSC<br>CA Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA)<br>PG&E<br>Sierra Neva Conservancy |
| Butte Fire Restoration      | Cal OES/FEMA   |
| Watershed Improvement       | Sierra Neva Conservancy  |

### Planning and Coordination

The CalAm team created a map that synthesizes fuels reduction projects and identifies priority project areas in Calaveras County, Amador County and adjacent counties. This map supports planning and coordination between the counties and fire agencies. This map will guide the group's grant applications over the next several years.

### Consulting

The CalAm team has conducted a range of consulting work, including tree mortality work for Amador and Calaveras Counties; tree counting and administrative management to qualify the counties for CDAA grants for tree removal along roads; and other consulting for RCDs, Water Districts and home owners associations along Highway 4.

### Public Education + Capacity Building

The CalAm team participated in multiple workshops following the Butte Fire and in tree mortality work groups in Calaveras and Amador Counties. The team is also training local residents in grant writing.

### Challenges

1. **Absentee landowners** (much of the work requires landowner permission), weekenders (who are not educated about the need for fire reduction), and **full-time residents** who either do not care or lack the resources to protect their homes in the WUI.
2. **Federal Lands** are often passively managed, which leads to a significant fuels build-up on the landscape. Additionally, some access roads are in very poor

condition while the Bureau of Land Management lacks right-of-way to access much of its land.

3. **Leadership** – What entity serves as lead for managing fuels across two counties?
4. There is a high cost and effort associated with the requirement to complete *both CEQA and NEPA*.

Many participants agreed to the critical importance of **follow-up treatment** to maintain fuel breaks. However, agencies such as Cal Fire and BLM have **limited staff capacity** to conduct additional fuels reduction work. Thus, it can be challenging for agencies to put funds to work even when they become available. BLM land in the Mokelumne River watershed is managed as a community forest by local residents, an arrangement that is particularly effective given BLM's staffing limitations. Additionally, the CalAm team is working with **home insurance** companies to establish incentives and eligibility criteria related to household fuels reduction work.

## 2018 Meeting Calendar

| <b>Collaborative</b>   | <b>Landscape Vision Committee</b>   |
|--|---|
| <p>The SOFAR Collaborative meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 1:30-4:30 pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 14, 1:30-4:30 @ Office of Emergency Services</li> <li>• April 11, 1:30-4:30 @ El Dorado Irrigation District</li> <li>• May 9, 1:30-4:30 @ Office of Emergency Services</li> </ul> | <p><b>Location:</b> Placerville Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Rd, Placerville, CA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurs., February 22, 1:00-4:00</li> <li>• Thurs., March 22, 1:00-4:00</li> <li>• Thurs., April 26, 1:00-4:00</li> <li>• Thurs., May 24, 1:00-4:00</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Always check <a href="http://sofarcohesivestrategy.org">sofarcohesivestrategy.org</a> for meeting location and latest information.</b></p>   |   |

## February Meeting Participants (who signed in)

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Lori Parlin    |   |
| Kathy Smith    |   |
| Mike Webb      | CALFIRE   |
| Steve Brink    | California Forestry Association                   |
| Brian Veerkamp | El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, District 3 |
| Pat Dwyer      | El Dorado County Fire Safe Council                |
| Kathy Lewin    | Northern Sierra Summer Home Owner Associations    |
| Marie Davis    | Placer County Water Agency                        |
| Jon Bertolino  | Sacramento Municipal Utilities District           |
| Eric Brown     | Sacramento Municipal Utilities District           |
| Ethan Koenigs  | Sacramento Municipal Utilities District           |
| David Zelinsky | Sierra Club                                       |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Ben Solvesky       | Sierra Forest Legacy                           |
| Chris Dallas       | Sierra Nevada Conservancy                      |
| Andy Fristensky    | Sierra Nevada Conservancy                      |
| Craig Thomas       | Sierra Forest Legacy                           |
| Chris Dow          | Sierra Pacific Industries                      |
| Laurence Crabtree  | U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest |
| Michelle Havens    | U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest |
| John Jue           | U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest |
| Michele Palmer     | U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest |
| Travis Thane       | U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest |
| Dana Walsh         | U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest |
| Michael Woodbridge | U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest |
| Kendal Young       | U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest |