



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

Collaborative Group - Meeting Summary

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

Meeting in Brief

The Collaborative agrees that focusing efforts on a headwaters and a community-based project would be ideal to “tell the story” of success. The Collaborative will work to advance collectively in the Caples Area and Sly Park and Pollack Pines as well as the Chili Bar to Georgetown area. The goal would be to advance coordination and multiple projects with different landowners. The Collaborative will support implementation of other projects as well as these, but have identified these are priority areas for Collaborative work.

A hazardous fuels treatment demonstration is taking place on steep terrain near Ice House Resort. Community workshops will take place June 8 and 9. [Click here](#) to register or learn more.

Action Items

Who	What
CBI / Kendal	Web Site – consider adding link to fire safe councils from SOFAR web site to capture fire safe council public information
CBI / Kendal	Consider explaining the role of partners on the web site

Landscape Priorities and Project Planning

Priority Areas

The SOFAR Collaborative has been conducting an analysis to create priorities on the landscape. While the analysis proceeds, the Collaborative convened an ad hoc workshop of land managers to identify and develop priority areas and projects that the Collaborative could advance to realize the cohesive strategy goals. The Collaborative is looking for projects related to planning for fire-adapted communities and for resilience that it can support, enhance, and develop.

Priority Project Areas in SOFAR Watershed

After exploring the conditions throughout the SOFAR watershed, the workshop honed in on priority areas and further focused on ideal initial projects for the Collaborative to advance. The group identified three priority areas:

1. **Chili Bar to Georgetown** has many residents and mixed land ownership, creating a need for multiple partners.

2. *Fire-Adapted Communities - Sly Park and Pollack Pines*, encompassing Badger Creek and Weber Creek, has lots of residential areas. Fire Adapted 50 is underway. The Pollack Pines Fire Safe Council is getting grants to implement projects. There are a bundle of projects that could come together.
3. *Headwaters Project: Caples Area* into Silver Saddle

The Collaborative asked questions, but generally concurred with these areas.

Project Categories

In addition to identifying priority project areas, workshop participants characterized each project by its stage of development.

- 1) Projects that are / will be through NEPA/CEQA by 5/2018
- 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 and Recommendations

Part of the effort is to keep a spotlight on those areas and to return to areas that have already completed NEPA for upkeep and maintenance. Phases of implementation are important. Long-term maintenance especially near communities is essential to success. Stewardship contracts might assist with long-term maintenance work.

Caples into Silver Saddle is a headwaters project. The Silver Saddle project needs follow up. Middle Creek is primarily plantation thinning and needs to be thinned again for under-burning. A third area is ready for work after it burned about 450 acres as part of the Long Fire. This area is of primary interest to EID. A lot of that work would be hand treatment and under-burning. ENF is the primary owner with SPI owning some land there as well.

Crystal Basin has a high concentration of high-risk ignitions and includes SMUD and EID land. The whole area is at risk.

West of Columa has a number of home associations that could reach homeowners. CalFire is moving proposals forward there. The Forest Service and the RCD are working in that area.

Communicating and informing communities in advance of projects is very important.

Funding Secured and Underway

The Good Neighbor Authority is under expansion as part of Fire Adapted 50 (phase 2). Funding is secured.

The Forest Foundation has put in a proposal to secure funding for work on small private parcels.

The Governor is putting together an emergency proclamation regarding fuels reduction and resilience.

The California legislature is talking about a revolving loan fund that would allow people to receive funds to complete work.

RECOMMENDATION: Focus on Headwaters and Fire-Adapted Communities

The Collaborative recommends that having a win is paramount. It would be terrific to have “a win” in the communities and in the headwaters. The Collaborative agrees that focusing efforts on a headwaters and a community-based project would be ideal to “tell the story” of success.

Large-scale is critical. Considering projects with the utilities and communities is important along with including private lands. Private lands limit the number of parties who can address private parcels. The RCD is encouraging NRCS to bring in funds for agricultural lands and other private lands. The RCD is trying to work together with the Fire Safe Councils and others.

Urge Strategic Focus

Pat Dwyer urged the Collaborative to think about the big-picture strategy to make SOFAR more cohesive to realize goals.

Pat started outlining strategic **areas** that could be refined:

- Area 5 might follow Highway 49 corridor.
- Area 7 Mosquito up through Quintet (SP?)
- Area 9: Ice House / Crystal Basin up to Lune Lake

Watershed running east to west.

- Area 2: Cosumnes River Watershed
- Area 4: Pleasant Valley transportation corridor.
- Area 6: Fire-Adapted 50 to Strawberry

Within an area, SOFAR might have a fire-adapted community.

SOFAR already has multiple zones as part of the desired conditions. Within those areas, SOFAR might have different types of projects. Then, the Collaborative could think about types and appropriate funding.

Next Steps on Priority Areas

- Consider identifying strategic areas that would have multiple projects within them.
- Complete project list and link into the strategy and implementation phases.
- Work with landscape committee to work on refining the list and advance project development.

Project Guidelines

Following on several other discussions, the Collaborative continued talking about what constitutes a SOFAR project. The facilitators have been working with stakeholders to find a way to “take credit” for projects, but still be sensitive that some charter signees are not comfortable with materials implying support for a project, with which they have fundamental concerns.

Straw Proposal

The following proposal was floated to initiate the discussion. The group did not reach any conclusion, but did leave with some action items to review existing projects and identify levels of support for each. Many projects enjoy widespread support within the collaborative.

SOFAR Cohesive Project

Collaborative develops project or partners develops project with some collaborative input. All members can support. Consensus on project. Cohesive project.

Notes on Level of Engagement

If project is within the Collaborative's zone of agreement, i.e. it is a project that makes a lot of sense to move forward, the Collaborative may provide a low-level of input.

If project is more complex or subject to potential concerns, the Collaborative or its working committee(s) may commit the time and resources to develop the project so the Collaborative can support the project.

Project in the Watershed

Partners advancing projects independently of SOFAR collaborative. Project does not enjoy the cohesive, consensus support of the SOFAR collaborative. Project does not imply in any way that it is supported by SOFAR Cohesive Strategy.

Discussion

Everyone wants fuels reduction. How SOFAR gets there is the issue.

Concern that it's breaking down the goal of being cohesive. There are lots of great work and efforts underway and this seems to confuse the message and potentially take away or limit that work.

If SOFAR project, having a map would be great.

If going after funding, Collaborative needs to be able to determine whether or not to claim it.

It is unlikely that any one agency will be proposing a project that doesn't achieve one of the goals. It's important when partners strive for funding, yet recognize that each organization / agency has its own mission.

Some of the charter-signatory-organizations are mission-driven.

ENF projects are very broad and have multiple elements that make it hard to separate out parts of the project or to isolate one component.

Next Discussion

- Continue developing project planning guide framework.
- Review existing projects and determine level of support.
- Review communication materials in advance of circulation to make sure Collaborative is comfortable.

Reservoir Fuels Project

After discussing at the Landscape Vision work group, Ben Solvesky is working with Nancy Nordensten at the Eldorado National Forest to think about the best way to advance this project.

Field Trip Ideas

The Collaborative identified the following possible field trip ideas for 2018. Several emailed additional ideas after the meeting.

- Reservoir Fuels Project.
- Headwaters Area: last year's work and work planned this year.
- Community projects with Forest Service islands, potentially Iowa Hill or Independence Area or Weber Creek Area).
- Community Projects: Auburn Lake Trails near Cool is a fire resilient community.
- RCD / Fire Adapted 50 is holding a workshop on what they've done, including a fields portion. Then, they will talk about Phase 2, Slab Creek to Forebay. RCD / Fire Adapted 50 is also doing a legislative briefing. Mark would like to coordinate with others.
- Placerville Mosquito Rd, Rose Lane, Fruitridge Rd. area (from SMUD). Multiple private landowners approached SMUD to reduce fuel loads along SMUD and PG&E utility corridors. Easy access, and reasonably easy walking terrain. Timeline is end of April/May.

Work Plan Implementation: Education and Engagement

As part of the Collaborative work plan for 2018, participants identified a number of initiatives to raise awareness, share information, and solicit support for SOFAR collaborative work broadly in the community and specifically among organizational and agency executives. The facilitator requested volunteers to advance this body of work in 2018. No one volunteered at this time, but did note several related efforts underway.

The [Fire MOU Partnership](#) has its own communication plan, which includes CalFire, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Sierra Forest Legacy, and others. It is available and participants are available to make presentations.

The Fire Safe Council will be mailing 7,000 fire-adapted guides. This is a wonderful tool that participants can use to raise awareness and inform others.

Steep Terrain Hazardous Fuels Treatment Demonstration

Tad Mason, CEO, TSS Consultants

Tad Mason works with TSS Consultants, a firm with about 30 foresters. TSS is currently working with SPI on SPI land to do a demonstration project on steep terrain. The community can see a demonstration of the equipment on June 8 or June 9.

**June 8 and June 9
Ice House
Steep Terrain
Demonstration**

TSS Consultants work in natural resources management and renewables, on biomass and fuels and emerging technologies. The firm also does a lot of land management. The firm has worked on small and large (1 megawatt and 100 megawatt) biomass plants.

Tad presented on the steep terrain demonstration project. This is a five-day (June 5-9) trial for fuels treatment on steep terrain. The goal is to raise awareness about fuels treatment technologies. The primary method is mastication because the slope is so steep. TSS picked this location because it has steep terrain, it is near a major media market, and it is near key target audiences (including agencies and legislative staff).

The Forest Service (State and Private) and Cal Fire (Forest Stewardship Program) are funding this work. There are a number of partners. The project has a communications team that includes the Eldorado National Forest, Sierra Pacific Industries, and CalFire. The project is up on Ice House – it's 2 miles west of Ice House Resort. The area burned in the 1992 Cleveland Fire.

TSS completed a similar project in 2016 that involved goals (this was doesn't). That project is summarized in a report entitled, 2016 Hazardous Fuels Reduction Demo (Central and Southern California) on the [TSS web site](#).

Everyone is welcome to visit the site and see the equipment on June 8 or June 9. You will have to sign up on a web site in advance.

General Feedback

Participants recommended the following:

- Add link from SOFAR web site to Fire Safe Council since the fire safe councils have so much information
- Recommend that SOFAR explain the role of partners on the web site.

2018 Meeting Calendar

Collaborative	Landscape Vision Committee
<i>The SOFAR Collaborative meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 1:30-4:30 pm.</i>	Location: Placerville Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Rd, Placerville, CA
April 11, 1:30-4:30 @ El Dorado Irrigation District	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 26, 1:00-4:00

May 9, 1:30-4:30 @ Office of Emergency Services

- May 24, 1:00-4:00

Always check sofarcohesivestrategy.org for meeting location and latest information.