

2018 Work Plan

August Progress Report

The South Fork American River (SOFAR) Cohesive Strategy is an All-Lands Wildland Fire Management Strategy with three goals:
Resilient Landscapes ♦ Fire Adapted Communities ♦ Safe & Effective Wildfire Response

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
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Engagement +
Education Work
Group

Landscape Vision /
Priorities Work
Group

**Steering
Committee**

Biomass Work
Group

Funding Work
Group

1. Landscape Priorities + Projects

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Related Activities to Date

February 28 Ad Hoc SOFAR Land Manager Workshop

- Workshop participants identified three priority focus areas: (i) Chili Bar to Georgetown; (ii) Sly Park, Pollock Pines, Camino; (iii) Headwaters/Caples area

Landscape Vision Committee

- To date, the Landscape Vision Committee has met six times in 2018.
- Sub-groups for each of the three priority focus areas (Chili Bar to Georgetown; Sly Park, Pollock Pines, Camino; Headwaters/Caples) refined their respective work plans and identified priority forest resilience projects in the focus areas.

Field Visits

- July 24, 2018 - General Sherman – Red Fir (led by USFS)
- July 17, 2018 - Reservoir Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Project (led by USFS): Four stops in the Crystal Basin and one stop on Atherton Flat; topics related to forest health and fuel loading at each stop and potential actions to address concerns. 12 participants from SPI, Cal Forests, SMUD, Sierra Forest Legacy, El Dorado County and Georgetown Divide RCD, Central Valley Water Board and community members/SOFAR Collaborative participants, plus 6 USFS staff, for a total of 18 participants.
- June 30, 2018 - Understanding Resilience at Caples
- June 21, 2018 - Fire Adapted 50
- June 8 and 9, 2018 - Steep Terrain Hazardous Fuels Demonstration ([link](#)): 142 guests participated in the steep terrain demo, at which nine fuels treatment systems were demonstrated. A final report will be available this fall via the [Steep Terrain Demo website](#).

Activities Related to LiDAR Modeling

- March 21, 2018 – General Sherman meeting (in-person and webinar). Participants: USFS, Sierra Forest Legacy, Center for Biological Diversity, members of the public

Objectives for Meeting: Review the tall tree data from LiDAR with respect to the latest information from research (North paper and owls); utilize LiDAR to help inform metrics in project area; utilize LiDAR for analysis when appropriate.

- May 23, 2018 – USFS and Sierra Forest Legacy reviewed Lidar modeling outputs for General Sherman
- May 30, 2018 – General Sherman, USFS, Sierra Forest Legacy and Center for Biological Diversity looked at how LiDAR modeling mapped important spotted owl habitat features

SOFAR Collaborative Presentations

- May 9, 2018 – Gina Bartlett: Mutual Gain Negotiation ([link](#))
- May 9, 2018 – Kendal Young: Collaboration with NEPA ([link](#))
- April 11, 2018 – Blue Forest Conservation: Introduction to the Forest Resilience Bond ([link](#))
- April 11, 2018 – Mark Egbert: Fire Adapted 50 ([link](#))
- April 11, 2018 – Dr. Paul Hessberg: Fire Ecology TedTalk ([link](#) and [2014 paper](#))
- March 14, 2018 – Tad Mason: Steep Terrain Hazardous Fuels Treatment ([link](#))
- February 14, 2018 – CalAm Forestry Team: Vision for the Mokelumne Watershed ([link](#))
- January 10, 2018 – CAL FIRE Forest Health Program grant funding ([link](#))
- January 10, 2018 – Heather Campbell: Fire Safe Council Fuels Reduction Projects ([link](#))

Projects

The following projects in the SOFAR area received funding through Cal Fire's 2018 California Climate Investments Forest Health Grant Program. Participation in SOFAR helped secure this funding, with Eldorado County the second largest recipient of funds. SOFAR stakeholders are working to coordinate the work of multiple partners throughout SOFAR. This coordination and common strategy helped partners strategize on which projects - many underway for a long time - to submit for funding, thereby creating a package of projects. The goal is to continue coordinating on implementation and submitting projects for funding in other SOFAR project areas and throughout the region; as such, the SOFAR Collaborative continues to develop a pipeline of projects that extends well beyond those listed below.

- *Blacksmith:* Eldorado National Forest, in partnership with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, received funding to remove 500 acres of biomass yarded to landings during commercial and non-commercial mechanical thinning treatments and then to a biomass facility. The Forest will conduct 500 acres of tractor piling of surface fuels and an additional 142 acres of mastication of small shrubs and small trees with follow-up shrub control on 26 acres using foliar herbicide application to reduce shrub competition with these trees and maintain lower flame lengths in the event of a wildfire.
- *Camp 5/Flume 46 Vegetation Management Project:* Cal Fire awarded grant funding to El Dorado Irrigation District's (EID) Camp 5/Flume 46 Vegetation Management Project, which is designed to reduce the risk of wildfire at both facilities through fuels reduction and vegetation management treatments within 74 acres of EID-owned parcels at Ditch Camp 5 and Flume 46 along the El Dorado Canal. The Camp 5 complex is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, El Dorado Hydroelectric Project maintenance facility adjacent to and north of Highway 50. Camp 5 is surrounded by residential

neighborhoods with numerous private homes immediately adjacent to the facilities. Flume 46 is a ¾ mile long wooden flume susceptible to wildfire, a key segment of the open water El Dorado Canal system and houses critical infrastructure such as an emergency spillway used to operate the canal system ([link](#)).

- *King Fire Restoration Project:* The Eldorado National Forest, in partnership with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, received funding through Cal Fire's California Climate Investments Forest Health Grant Program to conduct restoration on a portion of the over 10,000 acres of National Forest System lands which burned at high intensity in the 2014 King Fire. Due to the brush regrowth it is necessary to first have an initial site preparation step to control competing vegetation and maximize seedling growth and survival. This will involve either mastication or site prep broadcast burning. Removal and piling of existing fuels will reduce fuel loading and better ensure survival of seedlings in future wildfires through skidding and pilings at landings on 1,000 acres where salvage logging was limited due to loss of road access and limited mill capacity following the fire. Biomass from a minimum of 250 acres will be transported to a biomass facility for utilization. Following site preparation, a mix of Ponderosa pine, Sugar Pine, Douglas-fir and Incense cedar will be planted to density of 200 trees per acre to ensure that the soils hold appropriately and do not contribute to poor water quality. Survival surveys will be conducted at the end of the first and third growing season to ensure adequate survival and stocking of planted seedlings on 1,515 acres.
- *Revenant:* The Eldorado National Forest, in partnership with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, received funding to remove 500 acres of biomass yarded to landings through commercial and non-commercial mechanical thinning treatments to a biomass facility, and for tractor piling of surface fuels in 700 acres mechanically thinned.
- *Sly Park:* The Resource Conservation District for Sly Park received \$1 million from Fire Adapted 50 and \$500,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to treat 3,000 acres. Cal Fire awarded a \$1.9 million grant for implementation in the private, non-industrial area with 60 different landowners.
- *Sly Park Vegetation Management Project:* The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) received Cal Fire grant funding to conduct the Sly Park Vegetation Management Project, which will reduce vegetation in a fuel reduction zone of 118.5 acres and nearly 10 mile(s) long by 100 feet wide along the perimeter of Jenkinson Lake and 75 feet wide along both banks of the three primary tributaries in the Sly Park Recreation Area (SPRA) in Pollock Pines, El Dorado County. All work in the fuel reduction zone is designed to protect over 5,000 habitable structures in the low-income adjacent communities of Pollock Pines and Fresh Pond and the nearby community of Camino, the guests who visit the park, as well as to protect critical EID water conveyance infrastructure from wildfire threat. This will be accomplished through a variety of vegetation management prescriptions such as mechanical and hand treatment, removal of fuel ladders, and tree pruning to inhibit vertical fire spread and the potential for crown fire ([link](#)).
- *SP-1 Weber Creek Fuels Reduction:* Cal Fire awarded Pollock Pines-Camino Fire Safe Council \$624,880 to complete understory fuels removal on the ridge-line above Weber Drainage on the south side of Highway 50. This project will pick up parts of Starks Grade, continue down Links Trail (shaded fuel break) and end at Rancho Del Sol (two miles of

road clearance through the southern road in Rancho Del Sol). This project is designed for community fire protection ([link](#)).

- *Tobacco Gulch*: The Eldorado National Forest, in partnership with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, received funding to implement mechanical thinning, tractor piling, and mastication and prescribed fire treatments to modify fire behavior and improve forest health and resilience over this landscape to protect the nearby community of Georgetown and important forest lands in this area. Initial mechanical treatments are being completed with the assistance of a 2017 GHG Reduction Grant. To build upon this work prescribed fire treatments are planned across 2,560 acres in this project where mechanical treatments are restricted, where previous treatments have occurred and require maintenance, and as a part of the compilation of treatments designed to achieve desired fuel conditions in mechanically treated stands. The work includes preparation of fire lines including scraping hand lines, installing tractor lines, falling danger trees, hand thinning needed to prep burn units, ignition, mop-up and patrol activities.
- *Weber Lake Vegetation Management Plan*: Cal Fire awarded grant funding to El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) to conduct the Weber Lake Vegetation Management Project, which will reduce hazardous fuel vegetation along the north side of Weber Reservoir. All the treatment areas are designed to work in conjunction with each other, to mitigate the wildfire threat to the adjacent communities of Camino and Pleasant Valley and nearby communities of Pollock Pines and Placerville as well as critical water conveyance structures owned by El Dorado Irrigation District. Both the towns of Camino and Pleasant Valley are designated as Communities At Risk in the Federal Register. Water diverted at Weber Reservoir is an important source of EID's overall water supply, a source of water to benefit fish and wildlife and other natural resources downstream of Weber Reservoir and a valuable asset to El Dorado County. This project will, in total, treat 377.5 acres of land surrounding the reservoir ([link](#)).

2. Forest Products Infrastructure

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

December 2018 Outcomes

- Develop [biomass strategic plan](#)
- Implement [pilot project](#)

Related Activities to Date

Biomass Strategic Plan

- Advancing the El Dorado County ordinance for fire-safe properties
- Exploring local markets and generate local materials (goal of using local timber and generating local products)

- Solicited grant funding to support ordinance implementation and infrastructure development

Biomass Pilot Project

- Lawrence Livermore Lab biofuels pilot project to be located in project area

SOFAR Collaborative Presentations

- May 9, 2018 – Sean McCoy: Wood-to-fuel for California’s Transportation Sector using Autothermal Pyrolysis ([link](#))
- May 9, 2018 – Jonathan Kusel: Sierra Institute Woody Biomass Program ([link](#))

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Related Activities to Date

SOFAR Website and Newsletter

- Refined the website (www.sofarcohesivestrategy.org) based on recommendations from the Communication and Engagement Committee. Announcements, as well as upcoming meeting and event dates, are now prominent on the homepage.
- Posted regular updates to the website, including news, announcements, meeting schedules, materials, and project descriptions.
- Sent 13 SOFAR Cohesive Strategy email newsletters to a mailing list with more than 350 subscribers.

Fire Adapted Communities Publication

- Pollock Pines – Camino Fire Safe Council developed and distributed a Fire Adapted Communities booklet ([link](#)); also posted to the SOFAR website and distributed to the SOFAR email list.

Community Resilience Meetings

- The SOFAR Chili-Bar to Georgetown subgroup is planning two community meetings to be held in mid-August 2018.
- June 23, 2018 - Travis Thane and Josh Sjoström, Eldorado National Forest, presented to the Northern Sierra Summer Home Association (NSSHA) at Sciots Tract. Topics include

general fire history in the Highway 50 corridor; fuels reduction around the cabins; SOFAR Cohesive Strategy; Fire Adapted 50.

RCD

- May 31, 2018 - SOFAR Landscape Committee
Topics: A small group met and looked at the Camino and Pollock Pines area. The RCD, CAL FIRE, Fire Safe Council, EID, ENF, SPI and others met to identify projects and opportunities for coordination.
- May 29, 2018 – Fire Adapted 50 Coordination & Community Awareness Program
9 participants from RCD, CAL FIRE, EID, FSC.
Topics: Community outreach, communications plan.
- 4/23/18 - Fire Adapted 50 Phase I, II & III - Interagency Planning Meeting.
18 participants from USFS, RCD, CAL FIRE, SPI, EID, FSC.
Topics: Sly Park Vegetation Management Project, Collaborative agreements, Project maps and prescriptions, public notification schedule, public scoping, project implementation status and work plan.
- April 11, 2018 – Fire Adapted 50 Phase I, II & III - Interagency Planning Meeting.
20 participants from USFS, RCD, CAL FIRE, SPI, EID.
Topics: Sly Park Vegetation Management Project, Collaborative agreements, Project maps and prescriptions, public notification schedule, public scoping, project implementation status and work plan.
- March 1, 2018: Sly Park Vegetation Management Project - Interagency Planning Meeting.
18 participants from USFS, RCD, CAL FIRE, FRAP, SPI, EID.
Topics: Sly Park Vegetation Management Project, adaptive management in lieu of project accomplishments.
- February 20, 2018 – Sly Park Vegetation Management Project - Interagency Planning Meeting. 12 participants from USFS, RCD, CAL FIRE, SPI, EID.
Topics: Sly Park Vegetation Management Project, Good Neighbor Authority, Collaborative agreements, Project maps and prescriptions.
- January 19, 2018 – Sly Park Vegetation Management Project - Interagency Planning Meeting. 14 Participants from USFS, RCD, CAL FIRE, SPI, EID, FSC.
Topics: Sly Park Vegetation Management Project, Collaborative agreements, Project maps and prescriptions, public notification schedule, public scoping, project implementation status and work plan.