



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

Collaborative Group - Meeting Summary

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

Meeting in Brief

The Collaborative continues to discuss what constitutes a SOFAR Collaborative project, working on a proposed process for project sponsors to engage the Collaborative and creating a list of actions that may be controversial / non-controversial. The list will help project sponsors anticipate support / concern with projects and correspondingly streamline approval processes.

Transitioning to 2019, SOFAR will continue coordinating work and seeking funding in the priority focus areas and elsewhere in the project area, create tools and processes to build support and streamline project review / approval, advance work on community-scale biomass markets / infrastructure, and cultivate broader and more strategic education and engagement.

The next Collaborative Group meeting will be on **January 9, February 13, 1:30-4:00**.
(Note: No December Collaborative meeting; January meeting rescheduled to February.)

Action Items

Who	What
All	Send updates and meeting information to CBI to post to the SOFAR website.
Ben S	Send list of forest management issues SFL supports, has concerns, etc. as a starting point for the Collaborative to identify SOFAR zones of agreement.
Dan C	Share EID project proposal description to be discussed at the Dec 12 Landscape Vision Committee meeting.
Steering Committee	Develop draft letter template of SOFAR support.
CBI	Share list of SOFAR charter signatories.
All	Contact CBI if there are any suggested changes to the SOFAR charter.
Sub-Groups	Provide Focus Area sub-group meeting information to CBI to post onto the website.

Meeting Summary

Work Plan Progress Report | November 2018

[View report](#). The progress report provides a status update on 2018 SOFAR activities to date. Collaborative members were asked to review the progress report and submit any edits to CBI.

SOFAR in 2018, Heading into 2019

The group reflected on what has worked for the Collaborative in 2018 to inform next steps in 2019. Important accomplishments and progress included identifying priority focus areas, mapping out individual projects to coordinate planning, reconstituting fire safe councils, and coordinating grant writing. Individuals also conveyed gratitude toward the collaborative efforts of this group to share information and strategically explore opportunities to advance the SOFAR goals.

Members expressed interest in the following activities for 2019:

- Continue to seek funding for shovel-ready projects in the priority focus areas.
- Increase the pace and scale of the County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).
- Provide support for private landowners and small businesses (e.g., through the fire safe councils or create a clearinghouse of funding opportunities).
- Explore more innovative funding opportunities if needed.
- Continue to foster work on community-scale biomass markets/infrastructure.
- Review/Update the SOFAR charter as needed.

The group also discussed how to cultivate a more comprehensive communication strategy for the SOFAR cohesive strategy. Suggestions included developing a regular e-newsletter, using social media more, and crafting messaging (e.g., defensible space for a public safety), separately customized for two different audiences – the local SOFAR communities and the general public statewide. Another entity or additional funding may prove necessary to conduct a larger, more strategic outreach and engagement campaign.

What is a SOFAR Project?

The group continued its discussion on what constitutes a SOFAR Collaborative project (refer to previous 2018 Collaborative [meeting](#) summaries). Receiving a SOFAR Collaborative "stamp of approval" can especially help with grant applications, as it demonstrates collaboration and broad input.

The group reviewed the [draft process and language](#) that the Steering Committee developed in September:

- 1) Present the proposed project (must be within the SOFAR area) to the Collaborative.
- 2) Provide a brief summary of the proposed project.
- 3) If the project receives Collaborative consensus (75% support from SOFAR Charter signatories), it can state it received consensus endorsement by the SOFAR Collaborative. If the project does not receive consensus support, the sponsor can choose to state the project is within the SOFAR area, but has not been vetted or received Collaborative consensus support.

Note: Only SOFAR Charter signatories are officially needed to support the project, and consensus is defined in the Charter as 75% or more of the signatories.

Discussion

The group identified opportunities for public comment and expert review/approval that exist in current project development processes. For instance, the NEPA/CEQA process allows stakeholders to provide input and creates opportunities for collaboration before project sponsors would seek grant funding. Non-NEPA/CEQA project proposals must also receive forester approval. Group members indicated that even after a proposal undergoes a NEPA/CEQA or expert review process, they still desire the option to clearly indicate they do not support a project proposal, should that scenario occur.

Several individuals shared concerns that creating more processes could hinder sponsors' ability to conduct important, time-sensitive activities within the Collaborative meeting schedule. The group discussed workarounds, such as hold a webinar to receive Collaborative members' input or use another SOFAR committee meeting. For example, the Eldorado Irrigation District (EID) plans to submit a grant application (due at the end of December); therefore, it needs input from Collaborative members before mid-December. The group decided to use the December 12th Landscape Vision Committee meeting as an opportunity to discuss the EID proposal.

The group also discussed ways to help anticipate support / concern with projects and correspondingly streamline approval processes. Participants identified a document the Sierra Forest Legacy (SFL) developed that listed actions with differing levels of controversy / non-controversy. For SFL, actions like prescribed fire have a lower likelihood to be controversial compared to herbicide use for plantation establishment. The document also notes other factors that affect the level of controversy (e.g., project size). The group suggested using SFL's list as a starting point to identify the actions that are generally supported by SOFAR members, and which actions warrant further discussion.

The group recommended creating a template letter of support for projects that received SOFAR Collaborative consensus endorsement, and list the signatories that supported the proposal. The group added that if a project does not receive Collaborative consensus support, the individual members have the freedom to submit their own endorsement letters.

Next Steps

- At the next meeting the group will discuss creating a list of actions that may be controversial / non-controversial.
- The Steering Committee will develop a template for letter of support documenting the support of SOFAR charter signatories.

Headwaters / Caples Focus Area

View [presentation slides](#) and [area map](#).

Collaborative members shared updates on strategic planning and project coordination in the Headwaters / Caples priority focus area. The Caples Creek watershed is a major priority for fuels reduction due to over a century of fire suppression. Fuels reduction and

prescribed burning are currently underway in areas like Pilliken/Middle Creek, Silver Saddle, and Caples. Areas for future planning include General Sherman, Forgotten Flat, and Packsaddle. General Sherman management implementation will likely occur no sooner than 5-7 years from now.

The sub-group will conduct a field trip soon and discuss next steps to seek grant funding (Nov. 16).

Chili Bar to Georgetown Focus Area

The Chili Bar to Georgetown sub-group has been conducting public outreach, pursuing grant funding, and helped re-establish the local fire safe council. They hope to expand the CWPP to include communities like Garden Valley and Kelsey.

The sub-group plans to have a field tour of the southern part of the focus area at its next meeting (Nov. 26).

Announcements and General Updates

- Jason Sieg is the new US Forest Service's point of contract for the SOFAR Collaborative.
- A member shared an [article](#) that mentions the important fuels reduction work along Highway 88 and collaborative efforts to cross political and historical divides to improve forest management and fire resiliency.
- Fire and forest management agencies/organizations continue to explore collaboration opportunities for fuels reduction with transportation entities like Caltrans.

Upcoming Meetings

Collaborative	Landscape Vision Committee
<p>The SOFAR Collaborative meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 1:30-4:00 pm.</p> <p>Note: no December meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 9, 1:30-4:00 	<p>Location: Placerville Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Rd, Placerville, CA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 12, 1:00-3:00
<p>Always check sofarcohesivestrategy.org for meeting location and latest information.</p>	

Meeting Participants (who signed in)

Mike	Webb	CalFire
Steve	Brink	California Forestry Association
Norma	Santiago (phone)	Catalytic Connections
Pat	Dwyer	El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
Dan	Corcoran	El Dorado Irrigation District
Brian	Deason	El Dorado Irrigation District
Lester	Lubetkin	El Dorado Resource Conservation District
Vincent	Cornish	K&S Oak, Georgetown FSC
Ben	Sher	LBS Ranch, Placerville
Kathy	Lewin	Northern Sierra Summer Home Owner Associations
Ethan	Koenigs	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
David	Zelinsky	Sierra Club
Ben	Solvesky	Sierra Forest Legacy
Craig	Thomas	Sierra Forest Legacy
Chris	Dallas	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Tim	Tate	Sierra Pacific Industries
Rich	Wade	Sierra Pacific Industries
Brian	Veerkamp	Supervisor, District 3
Duane	Nelson	Trout Unlimited El Dorado Chapter, Fire Safe Council
Burns	Brimhall	US Bureau of Land Management
Monte	Kawahara	US Bureau of Land Management
Marissa	Vosmer	US Bureau of Land Management
Jennifer	Chapman	USFS - ENF
Jason	Sieg	USFS - ENF
Sarah	Sawyer	USFS - ENF - Pacific District
Scot	Rogers	USFS - ENF - Placerville
Travis	Thane	USFS - ENF - Placerville
Lori	Parlin	
Kathy	Smith	
Sue	Taylor	