

NOTES: SOFAR Landscape Vision Committee

April 25, 2019

Meeting in Brief

The Committee would like to organize another priority-setting workshop for land managers that would take place late summer / early fall 2019 similar to the one organized in February 2018.

The Committee will begin framing key questions for how to manage red fir on the SOFAR landscape. The Eldorado National Forest anticipates working with the Regional Office on these issues as well.

Next Steps

Emma will confirm which GIS layers the county has and if/how they can be shared.

CBI will organize a landscape priority meeting for late summer or early fall.

[Link to All Meeting Materials](#)

Approach to Red Fir

Several stakeholders have expressed interest in developing a framework to address red fir. The Eldorado's Forest Plan does not provide clear direction on red fir, nor is the science clear across the range and elevations where red fir exists. The goal is to avoid having a project-by-project approach given that the Eldorado's plans may trigger questions with some stakeholders. The scope of the Eldorado's work would go beyond the SOFAR watershed. Stakeholders are interested in participating in helping frame key questions that might shape an assessment that the Forest Service would conduct.

Some wondered if this work would be too detailed to be of interest to the Committee. Toward the end of the discussion, those present agreed to start the conversation within the Committee. At a later date, if only a few wished to participate, those who are interested could meet immediately following or toward the end of the meeting so others could depart.

The group will explore this more at its next meeting on May 23.

Incorporating County Wildfire Protection Plans

CWPPs apply to private lands only. The countywide CWPP serves as the "umbrella" CWPP incorporating each fire safe council's plan. The RCD is the best link between the fire safe councils and the county.

Fire Safe Councils have really benefited from coordination that occurs through SOFAR. For some councils, SOFAR coordination has affected the projects selected and created a strategic, more cohesive approach. Councils are often working at a specific, project-by-project level, and don't always have the opportunity to have a strategic-level focus. One thing that SOFAR provides is an opportunity to coordinate with the Eldorado NF and CALFire to develop the strategic focus.

If and when SOFAR provides a detailed landscape vision, the fire safe councils could also dovetail off of that work.

The County Fire Safe Council just received funding and is in the process of updating the county-wide plan over the next 1.5 years. Pat Dwyer and Steve Wilson are in the process of hiring a consultant. Inviting Pat and Steve to the priority strategy meeting that will occur later this summer or early fall would be really important to facilitating strategic coordination.

Sharing GIS layers is another opportunity for coordinating between SOFAR and the CWPPs. Heather Campbell reports that she has been sending all project GIS layers to Melanie Rossi at the Eldorado.

Emma works in GIS at the County and will confirm what GIS layers are available and how they can be shared.

Background Work

1. Meeting notes @ <http://sofarcohesivestrategy.org/meetings/>
2. Link to [Project Priorities Development List](#) (on Google Drive)
3. Link [Desired Conditions Zone Table \(on Google Drive\)](#)