NOTES: SOFAR Landscape Vision Committee
3/26/20

Action Items
Greg – working with TNC to understand fire data and explore TCSI climate information
Greg – will take a first cut at the GIS summary
Craig – will organize call with CTC and on fire assessment from TCSI

Posted Materials
- Climate Change Tools GTR
- Red Fir GIS February Meeting Notes
- Red Fir White Paper Finalized
- External Facing Red Fir Strategy (see attachment 02)
- Updated Red Fir Field Trip Report
- Red Fir Strategy Intent

Next Steps
- Red Fir GIS work continues.
- Everyone is hoping for a post-Covid field trip to overlay the Red Fir strategy, projects, and the White Paper.
- By 4/23, receive more information from TNC on GIS layers, what they mean, to assess value for prioritizing and potential improved data.
- By 4/23, write up the GIS process and identified areas: What layers do we look at? What would we look at for SOFAR? [Two sticking points are the fire management priority areas and climate data – do we want to use what we have or do we want to use other data?]
- Is the potential outcome for 4/23 the strategy write-up and mapping?

Announcement
Eric Necita, ENF, is getting a restoration project going near the Caples project that was part of the General Sherman NEPA decision. Originally the plan was to start on it near Caples (near Gerard). The plan was to use CNPS volunteers to help plan several thousand cedars that were donated. Trout Unlimited and SFL are also involved.

Discuss Red Fir White Paper
In January, Region 5's Beverly Buloan and Martin MacKenzie developed a white paper on red fir to help inform the group's work. Since the March meeting, Beverly and Martin finalized the White Paper, which CBI posted on the Sofar site.

The white paper clarifies understanding at this point in time. Root disease is challenging to determine. The group would really like to hold a field trip to identify areas with specific concerns and overlapping with the GIS group's work.

Red Fir GIS Work

A small group worked on GIS to identify potential risk areas and priority areas for treatment considering some of the questions that the group has framed related to roads, snow pack, climate, etc. Notes from the February discussion are on the web site.

Melanie Rossi had put together GIS layers on roads and snow pack. She was unable to pull in fire behavior and climate information.

Greg Suba was able to get fire behavior information from Ed Smith at TNC. Dana isn't sure that the TNC data are any more helpful. Greg Suba is working with TNC to make sure that everyone is clear about the data because it does have higher resolution. Dana and Teresa have some questions about what the data are indicating. The subgroup left the last meeting concluding that all the data sets are conditionally based and not that useful.

The land managers are working on pods that identify where they direct resources during a fire. Fire managers should be able to identify those points where the ENF always goes, which could inform fire behavior.

CLIMATE DATA
Becky is looking at climate data from James Thorne. Climate vulnerability data don't really instruct on what to do, tather it's what to do in certain places. *Forest Adaptation Resources: Climate Change Tools and Approaches for Land Managers*, 2nd edition. GTR NRS-87-2 Sept 2016, Chapter 3, of the GTR has good strategies. If low vulnerability, then that might be good for a species. If high vulnerability for a species, we may want to prolong that species, or we might want to keep values present recognizing that the specific species may not be present later.

For red fir, the data surprisingly indicate that the dry future (meaning less precipitation) maintains more red fir habitat then the wet future. Greg discussed with TCSI scientist – the researcher recommended considering other scenarios.

Jim Thorne's data was not looking at more detailed relationship between water availability and fire. It was specific to wet and dry periods related to precipitation. Insects could also factor in.

NEXT STEPS
Get back together and look at all the GIS overlays and see where we are at.

Strategy vs. Priority Areas

The group discussed whether to stick with developing a strategy or move to identify priority areas for treatment. After considering the available data, the group would like to pursue a strategy. The red fir strategy would cover the whole SOFAR area.

The ENF would then consider its application to Pack Saddle and Headwaters, which should help identify priority areas. Assessing areas where red fir exists and where fire prescriptions have been implemented might also be helpful.

Funding Project Priorities
Identifying Projects in need of funding and beginning to coordinate on CCI grants due in August

Crystal Basin: CBI will develop a fact sheet on Crystal Basin as a focus area. NWTF will be putting in another request for Crystal Basin (similar to last request that wasn't funded).

Chili Bar to Georgetown Work Group continues to expand and will likely submit an application for CCI.

Blue Forest – SMUD Forest Resilience Bond: A $5mil from CCI was going to lead to a $12mil investment over the next 10-20 years around Cleveland Fire plantations, Reservoir project and SMUD utility infrastructure. Blue Forest has been working trying to monetize.