



Cohesive Strategy Goals

- Resilient Landscapes •
- Safe & Effective Wildfire Response •
- Fire Adapted Communities •

Collaborative Group - Meeting Key Outcomes

Meeting held January 13, 2021
Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute

Meeting in Brief

The January SOFAR Science Talk focused on deer range/migratory patterns in the local Sierra Nevada area that can inform future forest management.

The Collaborative welcomed new Eldorado National Forest Supervisor (ENF) Jeff Marsolais and discussed opportunities to advance ENF and SOFAR Cohesive Strategy goals. The discussion fed into a brainstorm session to identify what the Collaborative would like to accomplish overall for the SOFAR landscape and near-term priorities to inform the 2021 SOFAR work plan.

Increasing the pace and scale of projects continues to be a top priority for ENF and the Collaborative. Collaborative members and partners can leverage the work and progress already accomplished. Additional suggestions related to potential priorities included advancing biomass utilization work, increasing focus on watershed health in addition to fire resilience, developing a focused communication strategy, and maintaining fuel breaks and other past project work. The Steering Committee will review the discussions to develop a draft 2021 work plan to present at the next Collaborative meeting.

Next Meeting: March 10, 2021

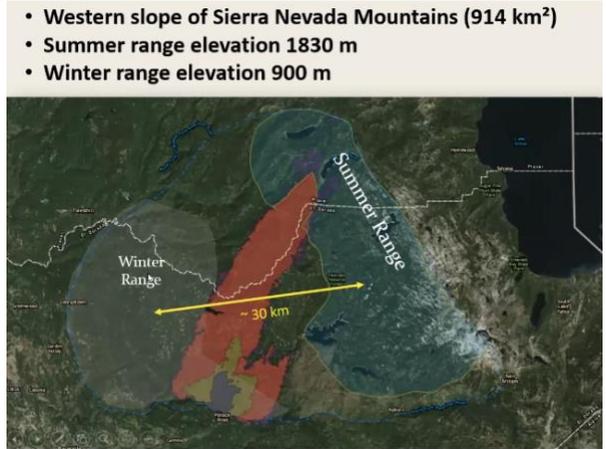
Have an announcement you would like to share via the SOFAR list-serve / website? Send information Cameron Hager, CBI (chager@cbi.org)

Meeting Overview

SOFAR Science Talk | Deer and Resilient Forests

Shelly Blair and Jerrod Merrell, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, shared preliminary research findings on deer ranges and migratory patterns and how this information may inform forest management.

- Tracked female Pacific deer inhabiting the western slope of the Sierra Nevada (consisting of 2 species, population = ~4,000, and categorized as short-distance migration [30km separates the winter range and summer range]). Research focused on identifying exploratory movements and stopover behavior during migration.
- Seasonal range movement usually involves the deer moving within the general area without focused direction. Exploratory movement is more directional, occurs during short periods of time, and the deer returns to its starting point.
- Exploratory movements average 4 days in duration and 5 km in distance. There was a wide range in duration and distance though. Exploratory movements occurred particularly during summer range periods (winter as well to a lesser extent) compared to migration periods (autumn and spring). Given that the summer range (higher elevation) has higher habitat/foraging quality compared to the winter range downslope, the deer may be exploring the habitat's foraging quality prior to autumn migration.
- Migration helps deer access high quality forage, escape harsh seasonal environments, and increase fitness. Migration involves two types – Active (purposeful movement) and stopovers. Stopovers are well documented among long-distance migrations requiring energy replenishment. Short-distance migrations may only take 1-2 days; however this deer herd did exhibit stopover behavior along their overall migration route (stopover = 2-10 days at a “rest stop”; transitional range behavior = >10 days)
- Deer used both stopovers and transitional ranges (not choosing one over the other) during their migrations. Deer (female) had more stopovers and transitional range behavior in autumn compared to spring migrations, potentially because female deer may be more time-constrained to give birth in the summer range habitat. Using these stopovers and transitional ranges may be helping the deer prepare and be more resilient for winter therein supporting larger/healthier births.
- Long-term research is important to detect these types of trends. An individual's movement in a single year would have appeared random and unpredictable; in reality, deer movement is highly purposeful and consistent



in time and location across years (e.g., one individual swimming off of same point multiple years during exploratory movements).

Discussion

How did the King Fire affect deer migration? Deer began to appear in the King Fire burn scar area a few years after the fire, coinciding with buckbrush regrowth. Deer appeared to favor Kings Meadow/SPI land, indicating SPI land management produced good habitat / vegetation conditions for deer (i.e., deer appeared more often and spent more time on SPI lands [increased stopovers and extended transition periods]).

If deer are spending more time exploring, does that indicate there's a lack of good foraging habitat? Cannot say for certain. Additional factors are also at play, including learned behaviors (deer using strategies based on what they were taught by their mother); predator interactions; etc.

Learning More about the Eldorado National Forest

New Eldorado National Forest (ENF) Supervisor Jeff Marsolais introduced himself to the Collaborative and shared several priorities for ENF, such as:

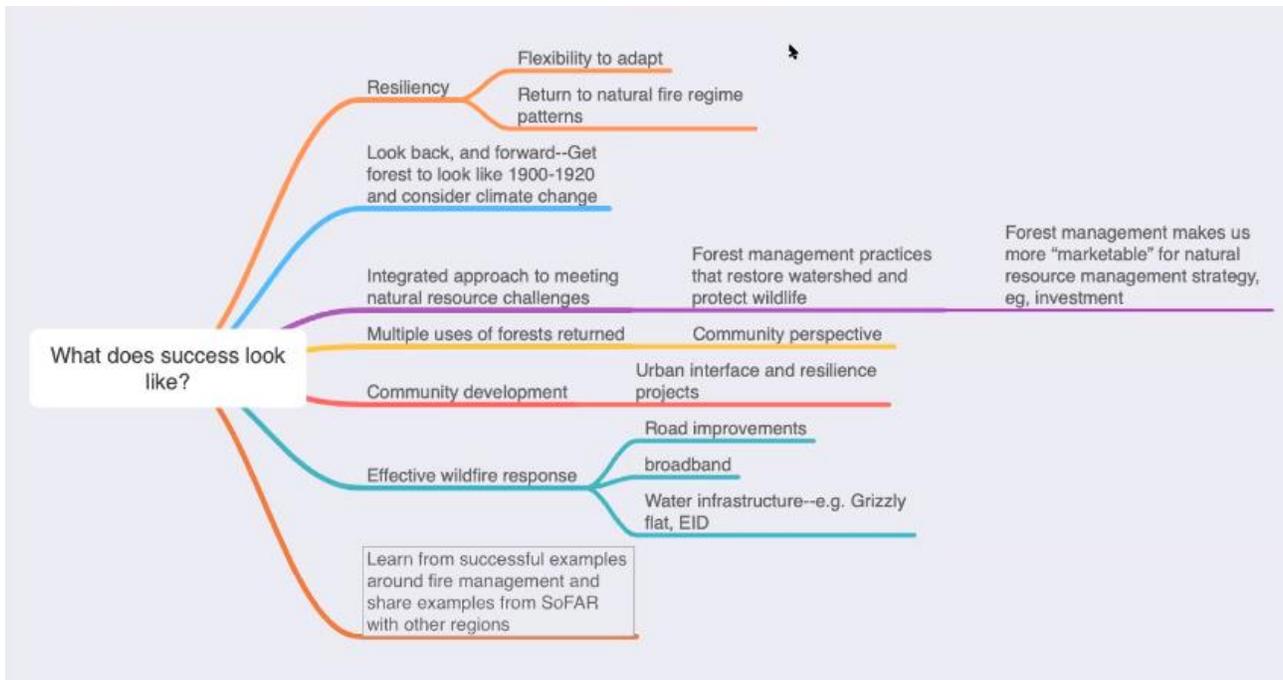
- Increasing pace and scale of projects, particularly to build a landscape resilient to catastrophic wildfire
- Broadening/enhancing USFS' approach for pursuing funding for projects (e.g., carbon markets)
- Utilizing prescribed fire to help restore forests' resiliency to wildfire within an appropriate level of certainty to stay within planned parameters.

He commended the Collaborative's long-term accomplishments and progress to advance the three Cohesive Strategy Goals. He observed the Collaborative's priorities align with both ENF and the new federal administration's anticipated priorities.

Discussion

Collaborative members welcomed the new ENF Supervisor, with several speaking to their specific roles and experience working with the Collaborative and advocating for their interest groups. The group discussed multiple opportunities to work together and leverage partnerships (e.g., guest speaking at annual N Sierra Summer HOA meeting, advancing current and upcoming work in the [four SOFAR focus areas](#), connecting with Tahoe NF efforts, etc.).

The group discussed impediments for increasing pace and scale. Jeff observed that several factors, while often well intentioned, affect the ability to increase pace and scale. For example, various aspects of planning processes (e.g., USFS budgeting cycle and approval process) can delay or reduce much needed management projects. Recent changes have helped streamline several processes (e.g., stewardship and good neighbor agreements). Capacity and expertise (e.g., timber industry) has also declined over the years.



Next Steps

The Steering Committee will review input and suggestions to develop a draft 2021 work plan for discussion at the next Collaborative meeting.

Updates and Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

Collaborative	Landscape Vision Committee
March 10 1:30-4:00	Jan 28 at 1:00
Always check sofarcohesivestrategy.org for meeting location and latest information.	

Appendix A – Individual Survey Responses to SOFAR Success Visioning Brainstorm/Discussion

How can SOFAR advance its 3 co-equal goals, building on and supporting partners' work across the region?

- By supporting ongoing efforts and providing a platform for coordinating and tracking these efforts.
- Stop talking and do more on the ground. If we wait until we get it perfect, we will never get it done.
- Creating incentives for private industry.
- Ongoing focused committees
- expanding partnerships
- Collaboration between all the effected partners; good communication of findings;
- Continue to work together.
- Bigger projects
- By facilitating coordination between multiple agencies, at different levels from local to federal government and providing a guiding vision
- Bringing people to the table and helping put the pieces together.
- Demonstrate long-term values and establish long-term solution
- Engage with and learn from other collaborative organizations throughout the state. Increasing communication within and beyond the collaborative.
- Create a co-located biomass facility. Soil amendment. Pole and plane. Small bore sawmill. Energy generation
- Be open and creative
- Continued efforts of working with communities on education and involvement plus input on shared goals.
- Share funding opportunities and grants - cooperation between entities
- Engage with the community
- Taking agencies out of the center of the process.
- Develop project lists to establish a que for grant and advocacy opportunities
- Collaboration
- Providing a unified voice for support
- Expand beyond fire related issues to include complete watershed health.
- Energize activities on private lands in the WUI - not just large landowners/Timber lands
- Expanding capacity
- Protecting North slope mature red fir forest for hydrology benefits
- Creating oversight by gov't and less mediation by NGO's, new structure to how agencies operate to implement and administer projects.
- Continue to seek participation from diverse stakeholders representing each of the goals.
- Bring partners into the project development so that implementation is consistent with the overall goals of multiple agencies.
- Long-term funding solutions

What does SOFAR success look like?

- A resilient landscape with fire safe communities.
- Engagement and support from downstream users.
- healthy forest
- Homes, lives and property protected
- Fire resiliency - healthy, sustainable forests
- No major fires in the El Dorado.
- Success is a age diverse, species diverse, fire resilient and drought resistant forest.
- Accelerating acres of treatments implemented.
- Avoiding invasive plant spread

Always check website for meeting location and latest information: www.sofarcohesivestrategy.org

- Fire resilient landscape. Well managed soil and hydrology function. Appropriate herbivory. Restoration of rural resource economy
- Successful implementation of projects that further protect our natural resources including water.
- Make it look like it did in 1900 to 1920 time frame
- infrastructure (roads, broadband, etc.) to improve reaction times for fire events
- Being able to see more than 15 feet through the forest
- Healthy forest resource values that support local and regional communities.
- Improved communication and cooperation across the organizations and agencies.
- Acres treated / \$
- Concrete results in communities and wild land areas where healthy landscapes are visible and wild life, water sheds and native vegetation prosper.
- Establish financially self-sustaining forest management system/practices.
- Infrastructure protected
- Development and implementation of a plan to create a healthy watershed.
- Clean Water before and after a fire
- Building long lasting partnerships that help maintain natural resources, community and resilience.
- Having a fire burn across the landscape without major devastation
- "to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run." Gifford Pinchot