

NOTES: SOFAR Landscape Vision Committee

Oct. 28, 2021

Meeting in Brief

The Landscape Vision C. would like to work with TCSI to apply its model to an area of SOFAR, potentially the Headwaters Focus Area. The next step is to hold a special session with Pat Manley.

Becky Estes will present on post-fire restoration at the full Collaborative on Nov. 10

Next Steps

Next Meeting *tentatively* Dec. 2, 2:00-3:00, depending on Pat Manley's availability.

Updates

ACCG is interested in coordinating with SOFAR more closely in the Placerville District. Greg Suba and several Forest Service staff attend both and might be able to think creatively about opportunities.

Caldor Fire Update and What's Next for the Placerville District

Important Reference: [Post Fire Restoration Framework for National Forests in California, GTR 270](#)

The Forest Service is still analyzing the effects of the fire. Becky Estes has just started to review the data. A large percentage of the burn area is characterized as high severity. The Caples focus area did quite well with high severity fire burning around it. The Landscape Vision C. would be interested in seeing the effects of the backburn areas on the east side of Sly Park Road.

Discussions are underway to think about the post-fire restoration strategy. The strategy is being implemented elsewhere in the state and might be applicable in the Caldor fire area. Becky Estes has this expertise. Everyone agreed that having Becky present on the strategy would be helpful for the full Collaborative, scheduled for Nov. 10.

Scot Rogers also talked about conditions and work on the ground to ready for winter. The post fire restoration strategy is a guide and on everyone's desk, and restoration is the top priority.

The staff were able to complete a good amount of suppression repair prior to the snow. (There are nearly 300 miles of bulldozer lines.)

The fire footprint will be closed into at least next summer to allow trees to fall naturally. Other areas of the forest are open. South of Highway 50 and north of Highway 80 is closed.

[Link](#) to All Meeting Materials

The Forest should be able to update the public in the spring about potentially reopening for recreation. The forest has removed some hazard trees along the road (only 100% burnt / scorched trees); thus far it has been 2.5 trees.

The RCD is also closely involved with assessing fire-adapted fitness, NEPA planning, engaging private and federal funds, helping the Grizzly Flats community, and opening the ski area.

The Eldorado NF is working on a resilience strategy, and fire is a central theme. Staff are working to identify areas that need immediate attention, as well as 5 years and 10 years out. Staff are re-examining fuel breaks and doing prescribed burns. The Eldorado NF was able to hire a new ecosystem staff person who has a background in prescribed fire.

SOFAR can help as the NEPA process moves forward, serving as a place to flag and work through issues.

TCSI

The TCSI tool is essentially complete with 28 metrics of socio-ecological resilience primarily focused on fire dynamics and fire-adapted communities for the pillars of resilience. The tool is able to rank watersheds in order of importance for retaining or improving desired conditions and evaluate different opportunities for management. The team will need to update with Caldor fire data, but that will not be difficult. The model applies to the whole TCSI landscape, which includes SOFAR.

TCSI is working with the Eldorado National Forest now and could work with SOFAR to conduct an analysis. TCSI has funding for this purpose. The Eldorado has been thinking about the Icehouse area.

The group would like to invite Pat Manley back and discuss conducting an analysis potentially on the Headwaters Focus Area. SOFAR is very interested in by-product utilization. Pat would set up a special session for this purpose. TCSI is ready to go. The group needs to discuss further.

Land Tender

Land Tender offers a broad strategic framework. TCSI and Land Tender can help show where work should happen. The group has not concluded on next steps for Land Tender.

Landscape Vision Work Ahead

- Consider applying TCSI to the Headwaters Focus Area.
- Talk about Chili Bar-to-Georgetown in the new year.
- Keep a consistent focus on Caldor
- Consider examining post-fire landscapes and think about how it can help the headwaters.
- Revisit the possibility of employing land tender.