



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

Collaborative Group - Meeting Summary

Meeting held Jan 11, 2023

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI)

Meeting in Brief

CalFire grant applications are due March 15: If an organization would like a support letter from SOFAR, please follow the instructions in the SOFAR List of Actions [\[LINK\]](#) and send materials to scot.rogers@USDA.gov and sophie@cbi.org by February 1. If any aspects that are “red” or “yellow,” you will need to attend the February 23 Landscape Vision meeting to discuss the project.

The new Eldorado National Forest (ENF) Supervisor will be Joe Stout.

The new SOFAR Boundary will extend South to Mt. Aukum Rd; all other boundaries remain the same.

The Collaborative supports the 2023 Work Plan Goals and will continue to actively coordinate with the County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR) and the Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI).

Updates & Announcements

Eldorado National Forest (ENF) Staffing Updates

Joe Stout will start as the new Forest Supervisor on Tuesday, January 17. He was most recently the Bureau of Land Management associate state director for California.

Dan Smith has left his position as the Caldor recovery lead for ENF. Robert Duvar of the Lake Basin Management Unit is serving in the position for 120 days until it can be permanently filled.

Upcoming Events

Amador Public Forum - Private Forest stewardship presentation with Dana Walsh on Wednesday, January 25, 6:00 p.m. at Golden Dragon Restaurant on Broadway in Placerville. Email David Zelinsky zelinsky.david@gmail.com for more information.

Wildfire Preparedness event with Placerville Fire Safe Council. Saturday March 18, 9:00-3:00 at Midtown Mall in Placerville. Email David Zelinsky zelinsky.david@gmail.com for more information.

CalFire Grants

CalFire grant applications are due March 15. Camino Fire Safe Council is applying for community protection and community support for evaluation on the south side of Highway 50.

The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District (RCD) is submitting a proposal for a project by the South Fork of the American River also near Highway 50.

Black Oak Mine School District is working with CalFire to submit a revised grant application for biomass infrastructure after its 2022 application was denied. The SOFAR Biomass Working Group is supporting this effort.

Department Of Conservation (DOC) Grant

SMUD received a \$500,000 DOC grant to fund predevelopment and planning for a hydrogen energy facility in El Dorado County. The Biomass Work Group has been working on this project with SMUD.

A total of eight entities received this Phase 1 DOC funding, including the Sierra Institute for a NorCal Waste Renewable Hydrogen project. Four of the eight grantees will be eligible to apply for Phase 2 funding.

SOFAR Boundary Change

The SOFAR boundary will expand southward to include Grizzly Flat, Somerset, and Mt. Aukum. In response to a suggestion from the November Collaborative meeting, the group decided against expanding westward, because that would encompass more privately owned land and significantly different vegetation types. The lands between the current western SOFAR boundary and Highway 49, including communities such as Placerville and Diamond Springs, are already more appropriately supported by multiple Fire Safe Councils and OWPR.

Attendees expressed satisfaction that the expansion will encapsulate some of the Cosumnes River drainage. The new boundary follows Mt. Aukum RD 316 and intersects where it hits Amador County line. The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors discussed this and other activities of the OWPR at the January 10 meeting ([meeting recording here](#)).

Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI)

In December, Sue Britting, Scot Rogers, and Norma Santiago presented to [TCSI](#) about SOFAR's work. TCSI encompasses a large swath of land, including three national forests and multiple stakeholders. SOFAR has adopted TCSI's blueprint modeling as part of its analytical approach. TCSI is moving toward creating a more formal collaborative, though they have not yet defined a membership structure. SOFAR members expressed a desire to continue to work with TCSI, and to stay in communication about the TCSI structure to determine how best to collaborate and coordinate.

Later in January, the SOFAR Steering Committee will provide comments on TCSI's draft application to a collaborative forest restoration program overseen by USFS.

Work Plan

The Collaborative reviewed and approved the 2023 Work Plan goals [[LINK](#)] compiled from the visioning meeting in November. In small groups they discussed the following questions:

1. What do you think of the work plan overall? Will these goals advance SOFAR in the direction we want?
2. What 2023 activities or milestones for your organization are relevant for strategic coordination with SOFAR partners?
3. Are there specific upcoming opportunities to advance any of these goals?
4. Any other thoughts or questions?

Comments from the breakouts included the following:

- The SOFAR 2023 goals parallel TCSI's goals and OWPR efforts; there is lots of opportunity for coordination and collaboration
- OWPR will coordinate with Fire Safe Councils, and SOFAR will support and work with OWPR.
- OWPR is creating a data hub that will include project maps; maps will help with project coordination.
- ENF will provide regular updates to SOFAR in 2023 to keep Caldor recovery efforts and timelines clear.
- Great Basin Institute (GBI) wants to expand partner efforts on ENF, and the RCD also seeks to expand.
- Caldor could be one of the next landscapes selected for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. Plumas Community Protection is a compelling format and approach to replicate.
- SMUD is working on a fuel break along transmission lines in Crystal Basin. And next year will extend a Fuel break from Loon Lake to Slab Creek.
- GBI hazard is doing tree removal with funding from SNC.

Next Steps

The next Collaborative meeting is scheduled for March 8. CBI will work with the SOFAR Steering Committee to schedule an in-person Collaborative meeting some time in 2023.

There will be no Biomass or Landscape Vision (LV) meetings in January. The next working group meetings will be February 23, with Biomass 11-12 and LV 1-2:30.