

NOTES: SOFAR Landscape Vision Committee

May 25, 2023

Next Steps

- **CBI** will update the Focus Area fact sheets throughout the summer, and reach out to Mark Egbert, Becky Estes, EID, Craig Thomas, and Michelle Wolfgang to verify information, as indicated below.
- **Mark** will send CBI the Emergency Forest Restoration Teams (EFRT) private landowner workgroup presentation, which outlines the Grizzly Flats boundaries
- **Dave Zelinsky** will work with Michelle to connect the USFS biomass specialists with Cindy Chen at UC Cooperative Extension.

The **next LV meeting** will be June 22 at 1 PM online.

The **next Collaborative meeting** will be June 14 from 1:30-3:00 on Zoom, Jonathan Long will provide a science talk on Guiding Interventions in Wildfire-Altered Forests in California.

Other Upcoming Events & Announcements are listed at the bottom of this notes document.

Enhancing Communication, Collaboration, and Connectivity on Eldorado National Forest

Michelle Wolfgang shared her perspective on how to improve communication, collaboration, and connectivity in the SOFAR footprint. She is the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) Partnership Coordinator, this is a new position in National Forests across Region 5. Zach Browning at Sierra Institute and Amanda Milici at Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI) are other new staff on the landscape dedicated to collaboration. Michelle is suggesting that they attend SOFAR meetings. Michelle is the primary contact for SOFAR now with Scot Rogers away on detail, though Joe Garrotto will attend the SOFAR Steering Committee.

In her presentation [[LINK](#)] Michelle shared her roles and the ENF partners she works with. She identified successes and challenges to achieving landscape resilience and shared her vision for ENF partnerships.

Discussion

Michelle and Zach Browning would like to track funding opportunities in an easily accessible way, perhaps a sortable database. Norma Santiago would like to support organizing a funding opportunities clearinghouse. She suggested the federal Economic Development Administration as a source for funding.

Mark Egbert, El Dorado County Resource Conservation District (RCD) shared that many of the groups the RCD participates in have a shared vision for collaborative engagement, but each collaborative forum is slightly different funding strategies and partnerships. There needs to be more recognition of the places that collaboration is already strong and ensure members participate across collaboratives. Michelle considers this to be part of her responsibilities.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Healthy Forests grant is accepting concept proposals. Chris Dallas, SNC, said that SNC wants to see collaboration and coordination among applicants so SNC can know that the highest priority projects for the region receive grants. Michelle said ENF staff are meeting soon to coordinate on their project proposals. The new Caldor Recovery lead staff will also begin work on May 25 and will have a coordination role.

Norma suggested having an LV meeting with all players for funding coordination on Caldor recovery, and specifically Grizzly Flats. Mark emphasized that the LV meeting was originally intended to be a place for technical experts to evaluate projects on the landscape and use the time to help improve each others projects by making them more inclusive, identifying how partners can add on to each other, and therefore have less resistance or conflict. He advocated for the group to hold to that purpose.

Throughout the discussion, participants named various other groups that should be in contact: The county Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR), American Upper Watershed Management group, Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership (HELP), the private landowner workgroup, SNC, TCSI, CalFire, Eastern Sierra prioritization work group, Amador/El Dorado Forest Forum, El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, and Ag Council of the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce.

Focus Areas & Fact Sheet Next Step

Building on the March meeting identifying projects on the landscape, the committee worked to select 1-3 successfully completed projects and 1-3 ongoing projects that are longer-term to highlight in updated Focus Area Fact Sheets. They agreed these example projects should show collaboration between multiple partners.

The fact sheet will include project information on acreage, funding sources, activities as part of the project, boundaries, and number and type of parcels (where relevant). CBI will work offline over the summer to gather this information, calling on members as indicated below, to complete the fact sheets by the fall. More detail from this discussion can be found in the [SOFAR Focus Area Projects Worksheet](#).

New Focus Area: Grizzly Flats

Mark will send CBI the Emergency Forest Restoration Teams (EFRT) private landowner workgroup presentation, which outlines the Grizzly Flats boundaries. CBI will follow up with the RCD to refine this fact sheet.

Current/Long Term Projects:

Private parcels

- Activity: Mitigating hazard trees and future fuel loads across the entire zone.
- The scope of work will be outlined in the upcoming NEPA document.

- Partners: RCD, FSC, OES, NRCS, private landowner work group for the Governor's task force, USFS regional office public/private partnership fund, SPI, CalForests

USFS Road zones and parcel adjacent boundaries

- Focus: Clearing hazardous material from private lands and the USFS road systems
- Partners: GBI (roads), RCD (parcel strike zones)

Water reliability: intake systems and watershed restoration

- Focus: A Water Smart grant is revitalizing intake systems on private and USFS land
- Partners: EDCWA, RCD, USFS

Headwaters / Caples

Becky Estes offered to help update the Headwaters fact sheet, including how to characterize these projects transitioned into Caldor NEPA: Forgotten Flat, General Sherman, Pack Saddle.

Completed Projects:

- Caples Burn

Current/Long Term Projects:

- Potentially - Alder Creek Dam project is long term, but hasn't been approved as a SOFAR project yet. The feasibility study will take 3-5 years and the actual construction will possibly be 20 years down the line.
- The Kyburz Diversion – EID may present on this project at the October Collaborative meeting.

Camino to Pollock Pines

CBI will follow up with the RCD about how to characterize the projects in this area with multiple funding sources and layered partnerships on Fire Adapted 50 and Caldor Recovery.

Completed Projects:

- Camp 5 / Flume 46
- Weber Lake Vegetation Management
- Fire Adapted 50 Phases 1-2, parts of Phase 3

Current/Long Term Projects:

- Fire Adapted 50 Phases 3 (complete and ongoing – complementary to Caldor Recovery work)
- Sierra at Tahoe Caldor Recovery

Chili Bar to Georgetown

Craig Thomas provided this information to be included in the Fact Sheet.

Completed Projects:

- Kelsey Fuels Reduction
- Mosquito Vegetation Management

Current/Long Term Projects:

- Georgetown Fuels Reduction
- Traverse Creek

Crystal Basin

Michelle is following up with USFS staff in Crystal Basin to help identify complete and current/long term projects for this fact sheet.

Updates & Announcements

Upcoming Events

- May 31 **Virtual Public Meetings on Caldor Restoration Proposed Action**
- June 1 **SNC Governing Board meeting** in Chester, CA. A live audio stream of the event will be available. The public is encouraged to review project information and submit public comment by May 26, 2023. Visit SNC's website for more information (<https://sierranevada.ca.gov/our-board/board-meetings/>).
- June 8 **Biomass Field Trip to Plumas County Wood Products Campus**
- June 14 **SOFAR Collaborative Science Talk: Guiding Interventions in Wildfire-Altered Forests in California** with Jonathan Long, Pacific Southwest Research Station
- June 20, July 11, August 1 **Forest Business Alliance Workshops**
- July 17-18 In-Person **SCALE meeting**

Other Updates

- Round 2 of **Community Wildfire Defense Grants** - expected to be released within the first 2 weeks of June
- **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) grants** are expected to be announced in June. TCSI had applied for the grant over the winter and is waiting to hear.
- Michelle shared that **USFS Woody Biomass Utilization specialists** are happy to attend a future meeting to share grants available for woody biomass removal. Dave Zelinsky suggested Michelle connect those specialists with Cindy Chen at UC Cooperative Extension.
- **Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI) Blueprint Modeling for SOFAR Next Steps:** In October the LV group expressed support to move forward with Blueprint modeling as a tool to set priorities for SOFAR. This is on hold until Scot Rogers returns or another staff familiar with the Blueprint work can take the lead.

[Link](#) to All Meeting Materials