

# NOTES: Landscape Vision Committee

Meeting Held, Oct. 25, 2017

## Key Outcomes

- Zones and Desired Conditions are moving toward completion. The Committee (Kendal, Dana, and Ben) will present to the full collaborative for feedback on November 8 (1:30 at OES in Placerville). In November, new information for industrial lands and wildfire response will be included.
- The Eldorado National Forest has received direction from the new administration to increase volume via board or chips and hopes that the SOFAR Collaborative can help advance this work.
- The subcommittee will not meet on Nov 22 nor on Dec 27; the committee will schedule another meeting in November. The Committee will also meet on Dec 13.

## Action Items

**Melanie**, continue developing maps of existing and recent projects and other GIS work identified by the group

**CBI** will reschedule Nov 22 meeting (day before Thanksgiving)

**Becky** will present the Lake Tahoe West approach / process for identifying where existing conditions diverge from desired conditions (in December)

**Dana** – Will check in with soil specialist Eric Nisita to identify the best way to address soil erosion

**Becky** – Will add units to tables on Google doc

**SPI/ Chris** will be able to work on industrial elements (in **November**)

**Heather** - (Fire Safe Councils) identify desired conditions to integrate small non-industrial **private landowners**, isolated parcels, Zone – built community and defense zones

**Dan** will add edits from SMUD

## Next Meeting

- Desired Conditions – New Inputs and Collaborative Feedback
- Maps

## Future Agenda Items

This is a list of items that the group is tracking for discussion, which will go on the agenda when ready.

- Discuss detailed information of General Sherman area
- Discuss current assessment of communities' fire readiness status
- Applying the zones to private lands
- Lake Tahoe West process

## Eldorado National Forest Updates and FY18 Supplemental Funds

The Regional Office of Forest Service has submitted its request for Fiscal Year 18 funds.

Supervisor Lawrence Crabtree met with Regional Forester Randy Moore this week. The new administration is providing direction for forests to increase volume via board or chips. The Eldorado anticipates advancing this work this year and hopes that the SOFAR collaborative can help. Region 5 is generally doing fuels treatment about 120,000 acres.

In response to a question, the Department of Agriculture is looking to streamline the NEPA process.

## **Desired Conditions**

Refine [Desired Conditions Zone Table \(on Google Drive\)](#)

### **#1 Vegetation Structure**

Brush in vegetation structure and composition – agreed to use the FS definition, but not include a percentage because it varies quite a bit depending on conditions.

### **#6 Social and Economic Benefits**

Add:

- Providing economic benefits of timber products delivered to market
- Transportation system to access products and provide fire access
- Remove word “alternative” in third bullet.
- Replace “small log mill” with “post and poll mill”

### **#7 Watersheds**

Add:

- Modify to say: “And ecosystem services (e.g. domestic water supply)”  
Discussion -- sustained and increased water yield. Encompass magnitude and timing, when the water comes off the forested lands.
- Soil Erosion – Add a line on soils or incorporate into watersheds. ENF has a soil specialist, Eric Nisita.

### **#8 Infrastructure**

- Risk to priority assets – the priorities are not listed here, but can be defined elsewhere.
- SMUD comments incorporated

### **#10 Non-industrial private forested lands**

If a structure, then it would be built community and defense zone. Threat or general forest would potentially be the same as category #1 on vegetation structure.

### **Table #2**

- Add units
- Add citation so people understand that this is a natural range of variability. This is from the early adopters' Forest Plans.

### **Desired Conditions Next Steps**

**Dana** – Will check in with soil specialist Eric Nisita to identify the best way to address soil erosion

**Heather and Kendal** – in #1 Veg Structure – add something on standard practice of leaving pockets of brush even within threat zone to allow mosaic.

**Becky** – Will add units to tables

**SPI/ Chris** will be able to work on industrial elements (in **November**)

**Heather** - (Fire Safe Councils) identify desired conditions to integrate small non-industrial **private landowners**, isolated parcels, Zone – built community and defense zones

**Dan** will add edits from SMUD

### **Presenting Desired Conditions and Zones at Collaborative**

Kendal – will kick it off on overarching vision and purpose

Dana & Ben will present

- What is the purpose and how will this be used.
- Emphasize the zones
- Maps
- What are the conditions
- What's next

Materials – remove Table 1 and Table 2 from the handout for the full collaborative.

### **Notes on Purpose**

Helping us to get a shared vision. Is a tool to identify where we want to go and to determine if we are already there. Allows us to track our progress.

How to use this? This is advisory. Still working to figure out how it applies to non-industrial. For example, the Fire Safe Council could draw on the desired conditions for grant writing to articulate the intent for the conditions.

### **Maps – Revised WUI Map**

(Note: Melanie Rossi, GIS, is returning in November and will continue working on existing conditions map.)

### **Revised WUI Maps**

The maps have white areas that are non-federal lands. SPI is developing information about its zones, which may differ from the proposed four zones. The group concurred that they will review SPI's conditions and then figure out how to map it in conjunction with the others.

The County anticipates that individual landowners will want to know their location and corresponding zone and requirements. The Forest Service can integrate the County's parcel map. This is a higher level planning effort and is advisory.

## Recommendations on Maps of Existing or Recent Projects

The group identified a number of projects that need to be added in.

- Use CalFire Water Planning tool to mine all private projects
- CalFire watershed mapping data online, which will cover all private landowners in the area.
- Mark Egbert has many of the projects mapped.
- The Fire Safe Council provided proposed projects to Rob Scott. Jenn will check with him, but she has a number of them.
- Consider increasing detail along Highway 50 due to overlapping projects

## Landscape Vision Conceptual Model and Work Plan

Kendal provided an overview of a conceptual model for how all the work elements fit together. The final output would be the spatial map indicating priority areas to consider for fuels treatment. The landscape vision subcommittee is identify the zones and spatial datasets and desired conditions. Another conversation is to evaluate and reconcile the existing conditions and where they diverge from the desired conditions. The values at risk need some type of ranking and mapping those values.

Lake Tahoe West has done some of this work, matching desired conditions and existing conditions that yield where existing conditions are divergent from desired conditions. SOFAR can mimic the Lake Tahoe West approach although its process was very complicated.

## Documents / Information

1. Review meeting notes @ <http://sofarcohesivestrategy.org/meetings/>
  - € Meeting Notes 9/27/2017
  - € Meeting Notes 7/26/2017
2. Review [Desired Conditions Zone Table \(on Google Drive\)](#)

## Landscape Vision Committee Purpose and Products

Goal – Develop draft landscape vision strategy for the SOFAR collaborative to consider and adopt.

### *Landscape Products*

- Desired Condition Characteristics (*underway*)
- Matching Desired Conditions to Zones (*underway*)
- Map Zones of Existing Conditions (*underway*)
- GIS of Current Conditions -- Existing or Recent Projects across the Landscape (*underway*)
- Fire Risk Modeling

### *Other Sub-Groups*

- Spatial Sub-Group: Fuel Break Mapping
- Wildfire Response: Identifying roads, ingress/egress