

# NOTES: SOFAR Landscape Vision Committee

Held April 26, 2018

## Key Outcomes

### Priority Areas and Project Develop Advancing

The Committee is organizing to advance the priority areas project development and collaboration. Small groups will come together to develop the conceptual plan, boundaries, and next steps and report back to the larger group in May and June.

May 31 Landscape Vision

- Headwaters – Caples
- Sly Park and Pollock Pines

June Landscape Vision Meeting

- Chili Bar to Georgetown

### Resilience Study and associated Field Workshop on June 30 (tentative)

Pat Manley and the Academy of Sciences is conducting research on forest resilience and would like to work with Committee members on this effort, including a field visit, tentatively scheduled for June 30. Nancy and Ben offered to contribute to the ideas in advance of the field workshop. Contact [pmanley@fs.fed.us](mailto:pmanley@fs.fed.us) for more information.

## Next Meeting

May 31, 2:00-4:00 ~~May 24, 1:00-4:00~~

Meeting Materials @ <http://sofarcohesivestrategy.org/meetings/>

## Action Items

|                       |                           |  |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Kendal                | Asap                      | Identify FS contact / lead for Headwaters – Caples concept development   |
| Kendal/Travis         | 5/15 (tentative)          | Prepare letter for Fire Safe Council (Heather) to confirm that work is committed to in Pollack Pines / Sly Park to support grant application                                       |
| Pat Manley            | 5/15                      | Share overview paper for Caples study opportunity (via Pacific Southwest Research Station Pat Manley and CA Academy of Sciences Durrell Kapan).                                    |
| Pat Nancy, Ben        | Ongoing                   | Nancy and Ben volunteered to work with Pat to plan the Caples resilience study field visit   |
| Chief Webb Heather    | Be ready for 5/31 meeting | <b>Pollock Pines / Sly Park</b><br>Get together: Mark, Dan, Pat, Heather, Teresa, Mike<br>Goal – bring a conceptual plan, including boundary, and next steps to this group by 5/31 |
| Ben Duane FS Lead TBA | Be ready for 5/31 meeting | <b>Headwaters Caples</b><br>Get together: Ben, Duane, and FS Staff TBD<br>Goal – bring a conceptual plan, including boundary, and  |

|           |                           |   |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|
|           |                           | next steps to this group by 5/31  |
| Dana      | Be ready for June meeting | <b>Chili Bar to Georgetown</b> Small Group<br>Dana, Mark. BLM (Monty), Scott from FS, Craig Thomas, Sarah Gerard, Fire Safe Council; Chief Webb; Linda "Sneez", Karen Swansboro Fire Safe Council<br>Goal – bring a conceptual plan, including boundary, and next steps to this group by 5/31 |
| Mark Jose | For small group meeting   | <b>Chili Bar to Georgetown</b><br>Identify structures over \$10k in value and population centers for the analysis   |

## Priority Areas

### Pollock Pines – Sly Park

Pollack Pines Efforts Currently Underway

- Weber Creek – RCD is moving forward.
- Independent Badger – FS is going to move forward with 6000 acres.
- Fire-Adapted 50 Phase 2 is going through Independence Hill and Badger Hill.

The committee agreed to establish a small group to build off existing plans, and set up priorities – then feed that back to the committee. The small group will identify the overall scope and opportunity and then can come back with recommendations for action. If the planning is funded, then the efforts can be ready for implementation.

The committee would like to explore the possibility of clumping together for NEPA / CEQA. At the same time, some efforts may need to be kept separate so as not to slow down the process. For example, Independent Badger may be too messy and slow down the fuel break. At the very least, each has to do a cumulative effects analysis.

Connecting the projects together, however, will benefit everyone for grants and pursuing funding. The goal is to write this up in a way that folks can use it.  
Show how projects

### Next Steps

(MIKE – HEATHER organize) Get together: Mark, Dan, Pat, Heather, Teresa, Mike  
Goal – bring a conceptual plan, including boundary, and next steps to this group in May,

Kendal and Travis write a letter to demonstrate that the particular area will be treated as for a grant that the Fire Safe Council is pursuing.

### Headwaters - Caples

Caples is primarily FS land ownership. SPI will do some fuel breaks that will tie in.

One element is to make sure promised work gets done.

Areas that need work that are tough to get into so prescribed fire is likely because no roads exist in the area. This includes Forgotten Flat, Tragedy Creek, and Silver Creek.

The Committee would like to have a small group that develops the cohesive / collaborative approach for this area.

### **Next Steps**

Small Group: Ben, Duane, and FS Lead - TBD

### **Chili Bar to Georgetown**

The focus for this work would be:

- Fuel break
- Fire resilient communities
- Fire resilient landscape

The area has mixed ownership: BLM and FS and private property

### **How do we collaborate here to meet and develop our strategy?**

This will require a multi-phased approach. Community outreach is critical.

The local Georgetown Fire Safe Council is interested.

Dana is thinking about how to package this up for grant opportunities.

### **Existing / Planned Work**

Private property – it's a community. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has done community fuel-breaks before. Now SNC is finding it more challenging than before (rights of entry). CALFIRE can do the rights of entry. Calfire is working with RCD for this.

BLM has a statewide analysis going on to do fuels work.

Fire Safe Council and BLM are doing some work near Georgetown.

Multiple Fire Safe Councils exist in the area.

FS is currently implementing the Tobacco Gulch Project (treating Darling Ridge). The Turkey Federation implementing some of it; ENF is doing another component.

FS is doing planning on Western Flat.

Spanish Flat Road is a county road. Mike Webb will use CALFIRE / County crew days that will move up this road in priority.

Utility lines going through the area.

BLM has a lengthy process for projects, but area typically open to others working on their land.

## **Other Priorities**

Important elements of the area need work. Ideas include starting at South Fork and moving north. Canyon Flat in Kelsey is a priority. Twisted Canyon and Bear Creek are an area of concerns.

Phase 1: Spanish Flat / Kelsey

Phase 2: Georgetown

The residents on the east side of Kelsey are pretty resistant. It might be possible to certify fire wise via Sierra Forest Legacy. Insurance is possibly a motivator. Identifying a trusted person to champion the work is really critical.

## **Small Group Assignment**

A small group will come together to prepare a conceptual plan, boundaries, and next steps for the June landscape vision meeting. The group talked about using the attributes of resources values, looking at candidate lands to maintain this feature, and then strategically deciding where this should go with consideration for the land ownership.

## **Next Steps**

Small Group: Dana, Mark. BLM (Monty), Scott from FS, Craig Thomas, Sarah Gerard, Fire Safe Council; Chief Webb; Linda "Sneez", Karen Swansboro Fire Safe Council

Ask Jose (from County) to give us structures over \$10k in value and population centers; then look at the associated attributes.

## **Exploring Resilience, Opportunity at Caples, June 30 Field Workshop**

Pat Manley of the Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) and Durrell Kapan from the California Academy of Sciences talked about a research opportunity on resilience at Caples and is seeking the work group's thinking during a field visit June 30 or in mid-July. The Academy's mission is to explore life on earth. The Academy has a citizen science team.

Pat and Durrell have been working together to frame resilience and now are ready to doing something at Caples. The framing of resilience follows on these elements:

- Resilience of what?
- Resilience to what?
  - Cyclical drought
  - Disturbances
  - Other?
- Resilience for whom? Why?

Pat and Durrell have been working with Becky Estes and Duane to understand Caples. The area has not experienced fire in about 80 years. The team has been collecting data, hoping to do so before fire is being introduced.

With Jonathon Long, Pat is co-leading the science team for the Lake Tahoe West Project. SOFAR has adopted many of the Tahoe West indicators for its own purposes.

They are holding a workshop on June 30. They would like people to attend to help talk about resilience. This opportunity should help SOFAR think about how to define and shape resilience. The research will look at the landscape over time.

The challenge is to know "when you have arrived" at resilience.

Calfire would like to better understand if an area is resilient to a wildfire. Becky Estes and her group, along with Hugh Safford, have been looking at large fires to understand what happened on that land beforehand and understand the implications of that. As a result of that work, there's a better understanding of how fire would burn in the landscape based on what has happened (piles, mastication, etc.). The Landis model is based off of this same data.

Duane cautioned that Caples won't be able to answer all the questions that CALFIRE would like. The area hasn't had fire for almost 100 years. It is wilderness so only certain tools are available.

#### **Possible June 30 Field Visit / Workshop**

Pat would like to work with a couple people to develop some tools to shape the field workshop.

Purpose, take SOFAR tools and Tahoe West tools and test how those might work in the Caples area.

Volunteers: Nancy, Ben

#### **Request for Other Types of Field Visits**

It would be very helpful to go look at Pollock Pines and determine which fuels breaks were more effective.