

Chili Bar to Georgetown Work Group-SoFAR Cohesive Strategy Collaborative

Meeting Notes: July 23, 2018 9:00 AM

Location: Garden Valley Fire Station #51

Attendees: Craig Thomas, Mike Webb, Teresa Riesenhuber, Clive Savacool, Allicen Cooper, Sol Nisbet, Tamara Johnston, Ray Griffiths, Steve Willis, Jenna Angus, Eddie Dwyer, Michael Sampson, Linda Szczepanik.

Discussion:

1) Craig Thomas/SFL introduced the **2014 National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy** <https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/thestrategy.shtml>

This is the primary document under which the SoFAR Collaborative is organized with monthly meetings in Placerville, CA.

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) adopted the following vision for the next century:

To safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a Nation, live with wildland fire.

The primary, national goals identified as necessary to achieving the vision are:

- Restore and maintain landscapes: Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.
- Fire-adapted communities: Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.
- Wildfire response: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

2) Mike Webb/CAL FIRE discussed the SoFAR/West Slope El Dorado Co. potential \$6,000,000 CA Climate Initiative (CCI) grant for Camino, Pollock Pines South of South Fork American River area.

We want to get the same opportunity set up for the next grant making cycle(s) for Chili Bar to Georgetown Project.

Focus: Ridges, Roads, Right-of Ways; Defensible Space, access-egress for emergencies, and landscape fuels treatments.

Steve Willis mentioned the need for very specific targeted areas.

What we have today: Georgetown CWPP document/Swansboro in Eldorado County CWPP; Coloma-Lotus Fire Safe Council (FSC) Bayne Road project has begun. (CWPP=Community Wildfire Protection Plan)

We discussed the southern end of the project area and the fire risk coming from the Chili Bar Canyon. Kelsey Fire 1959 (small sawmill fire) and the August 1994 Kelsey Fire east of Hwy 193 (arson), plus several other arson ignitions in the summer of 1994 in the Kelsey area. BLM and Forest Service parcels in the area are key for treatments to halt or slow fire spread in the area north of the Chili Bar canyon and Kelsey Canyon.

Also mentioned is the Rock Creek drainage which has high recreation use and high fire risk/hazard.

We discussed the Mike Webb list (below):

1. Re-establish and maintain the "Trail Gulch Road" from Timm Mines Road to Swansboro. (CALFIRE/BLM/USFS)
2. Develop Ridge line 300' Shaded Fuel-break from Hotchkiss Hill to Meadowbrook Road Traverse Creek Botanical Area. (CALFIRE/USFS)
3. Texas Canyon East to Spanish Flat/Light Canyon Intersection to Light Canyon Road end to Rock Creek Road. (CALFIRE/BLM/DOT/USFS)
4. Bear Creek Road Shaded Fuel Break from Meadow Brook Road to Traverse Creek Road. (CALFIRE/DOT/USFS)
5. Spanish Flat Road 300' Shaded Fuel Break. (CALFIRE/BLM/DOT/USFS).
6. Traverse Creek Road 300' Shaded Fuel Break from Spanish Flat to Bear Creek Road. (CALFIRE/DOT/USFS)
7. Full/broad treatment of "non-contiguous" USFS owned land on Timm Mine, Twisting Trails Roads and Nelson Canyon. (USFS)
8. Full/broad treatment of BLM lands on Twisting Trail and Laumann Ridge.
9. Long Gulch Ridge from Trail Gulch to One Eye. (CALFIRE/USFS)

As Mike reviewed the above list, he sketched out the project areas on the working topo map. He will have his staff GIS person update the map with ID'd project labels and descriptions.

Also discussed is the GDPUD Right-of-Way, PG&E Power Line Clearance, EDCO-Dept. of Transportation Right-of Way, EDCO Hazard Tree Abatement, PRC 4291 Clearance Requirements <http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/pub/fireplan/fpupload/fppguidepdf38.pdf>

3) Group Discussion on Community Outreach

Starting effort to announce, explain and gain support for the Chili Bar to Georgetown multi-year project within the project area (Kelsey to Garden Valley to Georgetown)

Tamara, Allicen, Sol and Craig volunteered to start the Communication and Outreach Plan for the Chili Bar to Georgetown project. We need partners from **CAL FIRE, Fire Districts, and Forest Service** to support and attend the community meetings that will be coordinated with your schedules. Our first meeting is July 31st in Coloma. We will share results of that meeting (a plan outline) with the larger group for input and support.

We also discussed community meetings (number and location) brochures, posters and social media approaches for reaching community members. We could hold meeting at Garden Valley

Park or Grange, Kelsey School, and Georgetown—several locations. Let local community groups manage the outreach where possible.

Develop mailing lists, USPS Mailing to homeowner associations and road associations.

Mike discussed having an agency-stakeholder meeting soon.

We also discussed and agreed (those in the room) to change the name of the Georgetown Fire Safe Council to the “Divide Fire Safe Council” to broaden the support and landscape reach of the FSC.

Additional Links: <http://www.edcfiresafe.org/cwpp/western-el-dorado-county-community-wildfire-protection-plan/>

<http://www.edcfiresafe.org/>

Need to get an up-to-date fire history map for community meetings. Check with EDCo FSC or Forest Service.

4) Group Discussion--Fundraising (need two members to take the lead of this sub-group)

We need to talk to Mark Egbert--El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, NFWF, and CAL FIRE (and others) to develop an accurate spread sheet for possible grant proposals, timing, right fit, scale, outside partner support, etc.

Craig Thomas and Mark Egbert will be meeting on August 7 or 8th with BLM (Bill Haigh, Monte Kawahara and fuels staff) in El Dorado Hills office to discuss moving forward on the BLM parcels in the project area. NEPA coverage, capacity, partnering across jurisdictions, and other topics will be discussed. Also, insuring BLM attendance at our planning meetings as proposals get developed will be discussed.

Grants need to be written now (general proposals) that can be tailored as submission time approaches.

Final note from Teresa Riesenhuber, USFS Forest Fuels Officer

Thinking about our Chili Bar Georgetown Strategy and the steering committee. Share with the steering committee or the FSC as you wish.

Community Mitigation Assistance Team

<https://www.fs.fed.us/inside-fs/community-mitigation-assistance-teams-webinar-july-25>

“Please join us for a webinar on **Wednesday, July 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time** or **Wednesday, August 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time** to learn about “Community Mitigation Assistance Teams” and how they can help local units build collaborative wildfire mitigation programs before, during, and/or after incidents.”

