



Collaborative Group - Meeting Summary

Meeting held June 14, 2017

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute

Meeting in Brief

At its June meeting, the SOFAR Collaborative discussed the forest plan revision process, discussed the July Cohesive Strategy field trip, shared committee updates, and reviewed the new SOFAR Cohesive Strategy website. The July 12 Cohesive Strategy field trip is open to the public and in lieu of the July Collaborative meeting.

Action Items

Who	What
Steering Committee	Discuss CBI facilitation for committees
Eldorado National Forest	Create agenda for July 12 field trip
CBI	Send RSVP form for July 12 field trip
Julia	Integrate website feedback and launch SOFAR website
Funding and Finance Committee	Seeking additional participants
Kendal	Change charter signature page to allow more space for organization name

Upcoming Meetings

June 26, 8:30 am, Steering Committee

June 28, 1:00-4:00, Landscape Visioning Committee, Eldorado Supervisor Office in the Pyramid Room, Placerville.

July 12, 8:30-4:30, SOFAR Collaborative field trip, meeting at Placerville Ranger District, 4260 Eight Mile Road, Camino, CA 95709.

MEETING SUMMARY

Introduction

The Collaborative reviewed and approved the draft February and May Collaborative meeting summaries.

Facilitator Gina Bartlett confirmed that there is no deadline for signing the SOFAR charter. All in attendance at a Collaborative meeting may participate, without distinction based on membership.

Participants expressed that it would be helpful to have facilitation for work groups. The Steering Committee will discuss CBI facilitation for work groups at its next meeting.

Forest Plan Revision

Jennifer DeWoody, NEPA Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service, presented on the National Forest Plan Revision. Forest Plans set the overall management direction for each National Forest Service area. Forest plans are strategic, providing constraints on management activities at a forest-wide scale to meet desired conditions. They are not prescriptive and do not compel or drive specific actions. The objective of the 2012 Planning Rule is to create a collaborative, science-based planning process that will guide management of National Forest Service lands so they are ecologically sustainable and contribute to social and economic sustainability.

The Eldorado National Forest Land Management Plan revision is currently in a **pre-assessment process**. In early August, the Forest will hear from Washington, DC as to whether it will move forward with the revision process. If approved to move forward, the first public meeting will take place in **October**, on a parallel timeline with Stanislaus National Forest. The current Eldorado National Forest Management Plan outlines six major emphasis zones, 30 management areas, and 13+ amendments. As part of the plan revision process, the National Forest would consider which zones to keep or revise.

July 12 Collaborative Field Trip

The July SOFAR Collaborative meeting will take the form of an all-day field trip on July 12, from 8:30 am to 3:40 pm. Participants will meet at 8:30 am at Placerville Ranger District, 4260 Eight Mile Road, Camino, CA 95709.

Field trip objective: Look at lands that are undergoing treatment (prescribed fuels and mechanical) or have treatments conceptualized. Sites will cover a mix of treatment types and a variety of project stages. The field trip is intended to support a common understanding of what treatments look like and mean.

The group considered visiting some of the following sites:

South of Highway 50:

- Silver Saddle prescribed burn, General Sherman proposed project (early stage) and SPI cooperative project (proposed burn site) [*all in close proximity*]
- Lunch near Harvey West cabin along creek
- *Suggestion* - Jenkinson Lake mastication project (CalFire)
- *Suggestion* - Pilliken (active project)

North of Highway 50:

- Cleveland Icehouse plantation thinning

- Hike from Icehouse Road to view the Highway 50 fuels treatment project (CalFire)
- John Dont fuels project (later stage of planning) and reservoir project (early-stage) near Icehouse Lake
- Prescribed fire project by Sunset Peninsula

The above list is much longer than the Collaborative could visit in a one-day field trip. As such, participants discussed how to prioritize sites. One suggestion is to visit past and current projects in July and to visit early-stage and future projects in autumn (with awareness that fire/fuels staff will be busy in August and September). For the July 12 field trip, participants suggested prioritizing CalFire's Jenkinson Lake mastication project and to consider focusing on sites south of Highway 50.

Sierra Forest Legacy is planning a fire-focused trip to look at Silver Saddle and Long Fire. Once they set a date, they will circulate information to the Collaborative.

Next Steps: CBI will distribute a field trip RSVP form. The Eldorado National Forest will develop a field trip agenda. Participants should bring lunch, water, and a hard hat if available.

Committee Updates

Landscape Vision Committee

The Landscape Vision Committee currently meets as three work groups: Desired Conditions, Spatial Needs, and Fire Response.

Work Group 1 - Desired Conditions: The Desired Conditions work has created two subgroups: one to look at the Built and Community Protection Zone and another for General Fire Threat and Managed Fire. At its June 28 meeting, the Desired Conditions work group intends to develop a draft desired conditions document for review.

- **LIDAR** is currently available for 40-50% of landscape in SOFAR area. Without LIDAR, it is difficult to have an accurate map of current conditions and changes to the landscape over time. LIDAR for the entire SOFAR landscape would be a highly useful tool for developing the landscape vision. Scott Conway estimated it would cost \$200k to fly the remainder of the SOFAR landscape.
- **Goal:** Produce a landscape vision by October 31 deadline.

Collaborative participants would like to attend an illustrative field trip in autumn 2017 after discussing the Desired Conditions Work Group's recommendations.

Work Group 2 - Spatial Needs: The aim of the Spatial Needs work group is to spatially identify areas for priority fuels treatment by October 31. By July 31, the Work Group will map potential primary and secondary fuel breaks by ownership and identify current fuel conditions in those fuel breaks. The Work Group will also assess how treatment impacts the fuel profile in areas where projects have been implemented or are soon to be implemented. It is also important to plan maintenance of fuel treatments. A

participant suggested that Don Errington and Dana Walsh could be good sources of knowledge about the landscape.

Work Group 3 – Fire Response: No current update.

Communications Committee

Collaborative participants reviewed and provided feedback on the draft SOFAR website (www.sofarcohesivestrategy.com). Participants approved the SOFAR logo and website. The Communications Committee will incorporate Collaborative input into website edits and take the site live in advance of the July Collaborative meeting.

Funding and Finance Committee

The Funding and Finance Committee is seeking participation from private timber and other stakeholders.

Infrastructure and Biomass Committee

Supervisor Brian Veerkamp will travel to Las Vegas in early July to look at a biomass gasification unit, which he will bring to Eldorado County for a pilot project.

Project Round Robin

Fire Adapted 50 - Mark Egbert provided an update on the Fire Adapted 50, which is a strong example of a collaborative, multijurisdictional project, with multiple partners and strategically selected treatment areas. Areas currently undergoing treatment include several hundred acres of El Dorado Irrigation District land and 1200 acres of Sierra Pacific Industries property.

Cleveland Icehouse Plantation Thinning is currently underway in collaboration with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Discussion

The group discussed the need for a plan of how to utilize residue from forests and project areas in El Dorado County. There's an enormous increase in capacity to take fuels via prior purchase agreement; this year 120k bone-dry tons per year must go to Rockland and 160k tons next year. Three mills that previously took timber off of Eldorado National Forest are now all gone. The upcoming **pilot gasification project** will take smaller material.

There is a current collaboration with the **CA Academy of Sciences**, which is conducting a case study of the SOFAR landscape to look at notions of ecological and social resilience. The researchers are interested in engaging with the Collaborative to discuss resilience from a social-cultural perspective.

Next Steps

The Landscape Vision Committee will next meet on July 28. An all-day field trip (open to the public) will take place on July 12 in lieu of a Collaborative meeting. Collaborative

meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, from 1:30-4:30 at Office of Emergency Services in Placerville. Additionally, the new SOFAR website (www.sofarcohesivestrategy.org) is now live.

2017 Collaborative Meeting Calendar

- July 12 – All-day field trip (in lieu of Collaborative meeting)
- August 9 – All-day fire field trip (in lieu of Collaborative meeting)
- September 13
- October 11
- November 8
- December 13

June Meeting Participants

Kathy Smith	
Sue Taylor	
Amy Granat	California Off-Road Vehicle Association
Steve Brink	CFA
Brian Veerkamp	El Dorado Board of Supervisors, District 3
Greg Schwab	El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association
Dan Corcoran	El Dorado Irrigation District
Rod Pimental	El Dorado Northern
Becky Estes	Eldorado National Forest
Alissa Fogg	Point Blue Conservation Science
Bob Johnson	Sierra Club
David Zelinsky	Sierra Club
Ben Solvesky	Sierra Forest Legacy
Craig Thomas	Sierra Forest Legacy
Chris Dallas	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Jamie Tripp	U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest
Jenn DeWoody	U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest
Michelle Havens	U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest
Robert Scott	U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest
Travis Thane	U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest
Pat Manley	U.S. Forest Service – Pacific Southwest Research Station
Mary Clarke Ver Hoef	Wrights Lake/Dark Lake Summer Home Association