

South Fork American River Cohesive Strategy – Meeting Summary

February 22, 2017 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Eldorado National Forest Supervisor's Office

Large Conference Room

Placerville, CA

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Notes by Kathy Lewin.

Meeting facilitated by Kendal Young.

Committee Updates

Steering Committee:

- The workgroup is reviewing existing charters to see what is relevant. The workgroup should have something to present to the Collaboration in 30 days. The next Steering Committee meeting to discuss the Charter is scheduled for March 7th at 1 p.m. at the Eldorado NF (upstairs conference room).
- Gina Barlett, from CBI will be facilitating our future meetings.

Landscape Vision:

- The landscape strategy is to transition to better utilization. A sub group has been formed to define landscape resilience, fuel breaks etc. Infrastructure values: what are they? This group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM at the ENF Supervisor's Office.

Research and Monitoring:

- On a recent conference call they discussed the role of science with regard to landscape maintenance and resilience. Addressing "What resilience is" has been put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Communication:

- There is a need to develop an independent website for the Collaborative that would provide information and communication with all stakeholders and the public.
- Website can a venue for the education sector – how do we get the word out to the kids?

Presentations

Potential Wood Product Infrastructure – Steve Brink

- The saw mill at Camino has been completely leased out.
- To compete in today's industry, a facility would have to be (re) built that would handle 100 mbf/year and would cost \$100 million. EDF would have to increase from 25 mbf to 100 mbf to stay competitive. After the King Fire, annual growth dropped to 225 mbf (from 250 mbf).
 - Therefore it is highly unlikely that the facility will reopen.

Considerations to improve economics: Add a variety of wood products.

- Post and Pole facility – there was one in Diamond Springs.
- Log inventory – Fir is the preferred species. Different diameter logs need to be sorted for different products. Ideally they should be stored inside a building to keep down moisture. Target: 25 mbf/year
- Wood waste – by products like bark and wood chips can be used for hose bedding; also firewood
- Sorter – dowling machine
- Lathe, Circular saw, Planer/banding machine
- Marketing is essential. It's the most important component.
- Horse bedding already goes to the high end wood company. Integration of "in the woods" harvesting begins at the landing.
- Biomass facility – should be in an industrial zoned area – at least 40 acres.
- A 5 megawatt biomass power plant must export 2 mw – have to use 3 mw on site – needs at least 10 acre facility.

Technologies:

- Gasification – heat to 2,000 degrees (blue flame) to burn wood chips – creates electricity and can provide heat.
- Phoenix Energy biomass facility – Greg (from Phoenix) will provide presentation. There is a demo facility in Yreka.
- Products in the planning stage:
 - Microfibrils – a network of fibers under the cell wall of a tree that hold the tree together
 - Nano crystal – blend with concrete – 22% stronger – product if cheaper – saves \$5 million
- Where to locate? Camino already leased out.
 - Between Missouri Flat and Greenstone or the Latrobe area?

Infrastructure Committee – Norma Santiago/Craig Thomas

- The Infrastructure Committee looks at market to direct products to utilization
- Requested participation on this committee?
- What is the best model? Bring in expertise (small mills in El Dorado County) for analysis of market potential.

Fire Memorandum of Understanding – Craig Thomas

- Settlement between Sierra Forest Legacy and Forest Service led to this MOU that now has expanded to 11 partners, including: Cal Fire, Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, Sierra Club (and others).
- 3 work groups:
 - Capacity Work Group – staff
 - Policy Work Group – right people
 - Communication & Outreach – talk to public
- There are barriers to increased fire use. 500,000 acres need fire each year (for forest health). Over 1,000,000 burned in the 1800's. Air quality is an issue. There are plenty of available burn days (spring/fall mostly) – the challenge is overcoming 100 years of fire exclusion.
- While March – May are safe times to burn, they are also the time when Cal Fire and other agencies are gearing up for fire season and crews are training for the hot, dry months ahead.
- Fire has ecological and other benefits: public health and safety.
- The King, Rim, and Rough fires provides examples of the consequences of fire exclusion (over a period of time).
- Recommended reading an article from the Journal of Forestry – Long et al 2017 – “Aligning Smoke Management with Ecological/Public Health Goals”.

Eldorado NF 2016 SOFAR Cohesive Strategy Annual Report – Kendal Young

- ENF allocated \$7.9 million went toward the Cohesive Strategy
- See Annual Report handout for details on accomplishments.
- In 2016 EID received just under \$500,000 from Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Caples Ecological Restoration Project Implementation.

2017 Projects at a Glance – Eldorado NF – Kendal Young

- ENF has \$2.2 million in supplemental funds. Some of the funds will go toward the following (handout provided):
 - Tobacco Gulch, Silver Saddle, King fire, Wrights Lake, Cleveland/Ice House, Highway 50 fuel reduction, Caples Lake, Project admin/SOFAR
- Agreements extend our capacity to be able to take more time to accomplish projects.

We went around the room so everyone had a chance to make final comments.

The meeting ended at 4:45 p.m.

Submitted by Kathy Lewin, February 23, 2017