



- Cohesive Strategy Goals**
- Resilient Landscapes •
 - Safe & Effective Wildfire Response •
 - Fire Adapted Communities •

Collaborative Group - Meeting Summary

Meeting held January 10, 2018
 Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute

Meeting in Brief

At the first SOFAR Collaborative meeting of 2018, participants identified key values, visions and goals for the year ahead, which the Steering Committee will integrate into the 2018 Collaborative work plan, goals and milestones.

Angie Lottes, CAL FIRE Assistant Deputy Director for Climate and Energy, presented on CAL FIRE's Forest Health [Program](#) grant opportunities. A small group of Collaborative members will develop a grant concept proposal in advance of the February 21 submittal deadline ([view presentation](#)).

Heather Campbell presented on Fire Safe Councils' fuels reduction work within the SOFAR watershed ([view presentation](#)) and opportunities for collaboration on fire adapted communities.

The SOFAR Collaborative will next meet on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 1:30-4:30 pm at Office of Emergency Services. The Landscape Vision Committee will next meet on Wed., January 24, 1:00-4:00 pm and will then shift to meeting on the fourth Thursday afternoon of each month beginning on February 22.

Action Items

Who	What
Ben Solvesky, Heather Campbell, Kevin Vella	Develop grant proposal for CAL FIRE Forest Health Program by Feb. 21
Steering Committee	Develop 2018 Work Plan based on Jan. Collaborative input
Landscape Vision Committee	Integrate Jan. Collaborative input re: landscape values into Landscape Vision document
CBI	Post presentations to SOFAR website (complete)
CBI	Distribute CAL FIRE grant information via email (complete)

Meeting Summary

Introduction

The Cohesive Strategy is an all-lands approach to achieve the goals of resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities and safe and effective wildfire response. As

described in the SOFAR charter, the Collaborative is charged with shared problem solving, identifying areas of agreement, and moving forward in such a way that meets all interests in the room. While the Eldorado National Forest serves as convener of the Collaborative, all participants have ownership over the Cohesive Strategy process and projects.

SOFAR Vision, Goals, Values, and 2018 Work Plan

To frame the Collaborative's work plan for the year ahead, Collaborative participants reflected on and discussed the SOFAR Cohesive Strategy vision, 2018 goals and key landscape values. The Steering Committee will incorporate input from this session into a **2018 work plan** that helps realize the goals of the Cohesive Strategy.

Fall Assessment Findings

To begin the conversation, Gina Bartlett and Julia Golomb shared key findings from twelve stakeholder assessment interviews with fourteen people, conducted October through November 2017 ([view slides](#)).

Benefits + Surprises of the SOFAR Cohesive Strategy Collaborative:

Benefits

- Expanding our work to integrate all lands and add benefits
- People are talking respectfully, diverse folks coming together
- Moving toward healthier forest

Surprises

- Slower than expected
- Heavily focused on Forest Service

Key theme: Participants are excited to identify priorities and develop projects in 2018

- Identify priorities for treatment + protection
- Consider re-prioritizing strategy to focus on communities first
- For each project, include a component connected to economic and community benefit
- Consider how to advance the work given limited fuels staff availability
- Consider how best to create an "all-lands approach" given large amount of private lands

Key theme: Participants are excited to advance the Cohesive Strategy, partner and collaborate

- Develop collaborative projects with (other) partners
- Need for USFS/Eldorado National Forest champion at the leadership level
- Balance flexibility to shift with a commitment to advance areas of agreement
- Call for transparency and capacity building within the Collaborative

"The County has a history of discourse, but SOFAR has been a unique opportunity where people are willing to come to the table to be solution-oriented to find complementary goals around three main objectives for strategy." -Interviewee

Key Theme: Meetings and Facilitation

- At outset of each meeting, remind participants of the overarching goals and "where we are at."
- Refocus the meeting on discussion of issues rather than updates and report-outs on committee work. Find another tool to provide updates rather than group meeting time.
- Utilize small group discussions
- Continue to develop and enhance communication materials, including website, project maps, etc.

Potential Goals + Priorities for 2018 SOFAR Cohesive Strategy



SOFAR Vision, Goals and Values

Participants discussed two guiding questions in pairs and then as a group ([view high resolution image](#) of wall chart capturing discussion):

1. Given that protecting what is important on the SOFAR landscape is a fundamental aspect of advancing the Cohesive Strategy, it is important to understand: **What do we value in the SOFAR watershed that we want to protect?**
2. **What would you like to see as key components or elements to realize the Cohesive Strategy in SOFAR?**

SOFAR Watershed Values

- **Resilience of Watershed**
 - Water quality in streams
 - Advance upper watershed health
- **Healthy Forest**
 - Habitat
 - Native plants – wildlife: interaction and collaboration
 - Old forest health
 - Fuel reduction
 - Prevent high severity fire
- **Cultural and Economic Value of Rural Community**
 - Recreation
 - Private land
 - Aesthetic beauty and variety of landscape
- **Community Protection**
 - Public safety
 - Stewardship of local cabin owners and others
- **Infrastructure**
 - Water and energy infrastructure - *provides viability and value*
 - Transportation infrastructure – *adverse impacts when failing; impacted by forest health*
- **Process** - *creates value*
 - Innovation
 - Patience in the process
 - Information and data to inform sound decision-making

Key Components to Realize the SOFAR Cohesive Strategy Goals

Goals: Resilient Landscapes | Safe & Effective Wildfire Response | Fire Adapted Communities

- **Create Overarching Work Plan**
 - Provide input to Dept. of Transportation
 - Connect to USFS regional office
- **Biomass** - *Sustainable path post-treatment*
 - Four processes/types of infrastructure
 - Create coop
 - Dow machine in County
 - Small log mill
- **Public Education and Engagement** – *critical component of fire adapted communities*
 - Early engagement of communities
 - Daylight successes
 - Educate about controlled burns
 - Educate about Fire Safe Councils

- Share with public via town halls, news media, signage, six-month update to broader audience, videos
- **Fire on Landscape**
 - Landscape fuel break network
 - Increase pace and scale for hazardous fuel reduction
 - Expand on Caples – *fire at top of watershed*
- **2018 Project on Community**
 - Pollock Pines
 - Engage communities
 - Active involvement of CAL FIRE, USFS and utilities senior leadership
 - Placerville defensible space
 - Community can withstand wildfire without loss of community, property, safety
 - Increase burns – *educate the public*
 - Support homeowners to work on their properties
- **Take Near-Term Action While Planning for the Long-Term**
 - “Simple” short-term projects (6-8 months; pilots and demonstrations)
 - Lay the foundation for more “complex” project(s) in 12-18 months
- **Identify Resources for Large-Scale Treatment - people, technology, funding, etc.**
- **Collaboration**
 - Establish clear process for project development
 - Involve groups in planning stages
 - Fast, better, effective collaboration
 - Feedback loops
 - Decision support framework as a tool for project planning and beyond

Next Steps

The Landscape Vision Committee will integrate Collaborative input regarding landscape values into the Desired Conditions document. The Steering Committee will synthesize and incorporate Collaborative input into a 2018 SOFAR Cohesive Strategy Work Plan, which it will present at the February Collaborative meeting.

Grant Opportunities: CAL FIRE Forest Health Program

Angie Lottes, Assistant Deputy Director for Climate and Energy at CAL FIRE, presented on CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program grant opportunities ([view presentation](#)). CAL FIRE grant information is available online at www.fire.ca.gov/grants/grants and Forest Health Program concept proposals are due by **February 21**. Lottes estimates that the application will take 20 to 40 hours to complete.

The California's 2017-2018 budget allocated \$225 million in **California Climate Investment** funding to CAL FIRE:

- \$200 million for Forest Health, Forest Legacy, and Fire Prevention grants
- \$5 million to partner with the California Conservation Corps to complete Forest Health projects
- \$20 Million to the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program

The Forest Health Program funds projects that **proactively restore forest health** to:

- Reduce greenhouse gases - *benefits calculated for 50-80 years*
- Protect upper watersheds
- Promote long-term storage of carbon in forest trees & soils
- Support biodiversity & wildlife adaptation to climate change
- Minimize loss of forest carbon from large, intense wildfires
- Further goals of the CA Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32)

Forest Health Program **priority projects** will implement a mix of these **five eligible activities**, with multiple partners:

- Forest fuels reduction - *Models (utilizing assumptions outlined in the quantification methodology) can find carbon savings by calculating the carbon benefits of land that does not burn.*
- Pest management
- Reforestation
- Biomass utilization – *Because pile burns result in high emissions, biomass utilization can substantially reduce carbon impacts. Emissions in construction are not counted.*
- Research – *Most research activities should be a small component of a project and no applications should be research-only. While research does not have a direct carbon reduction, it should have a strong likelihood of impacting carbon-saving activities.*

Lottes encourages applicants to partner with entities conducting reforestation and biomass energy.

Landscape Scale Forest Health Projects:

- Include State Responsibility Areas (SRA)
- 10% disadvantaged &/or low-income communities
- Sub-watersheds, fireheds, or larger logical management units
- Leverage resources to achieve an outcome larger than sum of individual projects
- Use existing agreements to demonstrate cooperation (such as Good Neighbor Authority, Prescribed Fire MOU, and local agreements).

Funded projects must have a neutral to negative carbon footprint and require the following carbon accounting:

- Quantification methods for individual forest treatment activities
- Accounting strategy for combined and synergistic effects at landscape level
- CA Air Resources Board will post draft quantification methodology for public comment prior to finalization (link: www.arb.ca.gov/cci-quantification)

Eligible applicants include local, state, federal and tribal government land managers, non-industrial forest land, and NGOs (including RCDs, land trusts, and fire safe councils). CAL FIRE encourages **landscape-scale projects**. There is no maximum grant size.

CAL FIRE Grant Timeline

January 19-26, 2018	Grant workshops View workshop schedule at sofarcohesivestrategy.org/resources
February 21	Concept proposals due
Early March	Invitation for full application
Early June	Full applications due
July 2018	Grants awarded
June 30, 2020	Contract deadline <i>Contracting process will take up to a year, with work likely occurring in 2019</i>
March 30, 2022	Projects must complete all grant-related work

Grant Contacts

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Next Steps

In advance of the February 21 deadline, Heather Campbell, Ben Solvesky and Kevin Vella will develop a Forest Health Program concept proposal for a community-oriented project.

Fire Safe Council Fuels Reduction Projects

Heather Campbell presented on recent Fire Safe Council fuels reduction projects in the SOFAR watershed ([view presentation](#)) and highlighted opportunities for Collaborative members to develop projects on the SOFAR landscape.

Seven Fire Safe Councils (FSCs) are located within the SOFAR watershed:

- Georgetown FSC
- Mosquito FSC
- Camino FSC
- Pleasant Valley FSC
- Sierra Springs Regional FSC
- Pollock Pines FSC
- Rancho Del Sol FSC

Each Fire Safe Council has a community wildfire protection plan. Following the King Fire, the Fire Safe Council developed the **Pollock Pines – Camino fuel break project** in Randolph Canyon, for which a shaded fuel break was strategically placed on the landscape. The FSC may need support to fully complete its plan (with the ultimate goal of reducing fire along the highway), particularly as the Fire Safe Council works solely on private property and not on state or federal land. Campbell encourages active communication with local FSCs, as there is significant opportunity for collaboration.

SMUD, PG&E and the FSC are currently collaborating on fuels reduction in Camino. Heather hopes that the FSC will next work on fuels reduction on Forebay Road, a Pollock Pines access corridor.

In March, the FSC will release a **26-page fire adapted community brochure**, which will be mailed to each resident in Pollock Pines and Camino. The brochure offers guidance on access, clearance, best practices for built environment, and products for defensible space and ember resistance; additionally, USFS and CAL FIRE are developing four pages that will highlight the SOFAR Cohesive Strategy. SMUD funded 75% of brochure costs.

While FSC has conducted significant fuels reduction work in strategic locations such as along ridgelines, a substantial amount of work remains, particularly at the household level. Campbell noted that **community forums** could provide an important opportunity to reinforce the forthcoming fire adapted community brochure.

2018 Meeting Calendar

Collaborative	Landscape Vision Committee
<p><i>The SOFAR Collaborative meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 1:30-4:30 pm.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 14, 1:30-4:30 @ Office of Emergency Services • March 14, 1:30-4:30 @ Office of Emergency Services • April 11, 1:30-4:30 @ El Dorado Irrigation District • May 9, 1:30-4:30 @ Office of Emergency Services 	<p>Location: <i>Placerville Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Rd, Placerville, CA.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wed., January 24, 1:00-4:00 • Thurs., February 22, 1:00-4:00 • Thurs., March 22, 1:00-4:00 • Thurs, April 26, 1:00-4:00 • Thurs., May 24, 1:00-4:00
<p>Always check sofarcohesivestrategy.org for meeting location and latest information.</p>	

January Meeting Participants

Lori Parlin	
Sue Taylor	
Steve Brink	California Forestry Association
Pamela Hoover	California Native Plant Society
Norma Santiago (by phone)	Catalytic Connections
José Crummet	El Dorado County
Brian Veerkamp	El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, District 3
Heather Campbell	El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

Dan Corcoran	El Dorado Irrigation District
Greg Hawkins	El Dorado Irrigation District
Rod Pimental	El Dorado Northern
Kevin Vella	National Wild Turkey Federation
Kathy Lewin	Northern Sierra Summer Home Owner Associations
Jon Bertolino	Sacramento Municipal Utilities District
Eric Brown	Sacramento Municipal Utilities District
Bob Johnson	Sierra Club
David Zelinsky	Sierra Club
Ben Solvesky	Sierra Forest Legacy
Craig Thomas	Sierra Forest Legacy
Chris Dow	Sierra Pacific Industries
Rich Wade	Sierra Pacific Industries
Duane Nelson	Trout Unlimited
Nancy Nordensten	U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest
Dana Walsh	U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest
Kendal Young	U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest
Pat Manley	U.S. Forest Service – Pacific Southwest Research Station