

NOTES: SOFAR Landscape Vision Committee

Held August 8, 2018

Action Items

Project sponsors: Please populate [google sheet matrix](#) with funded projects

Nov. 9 Brown Bag with Cal Licensed Foresters Association being hosted by Blodgett and SPI to look at stocking standards and will include a Blodgett tour. More details to come.

Eldorado National Forest Update

The forest has two new district rangers. Jason Sieg will be the permanent ranger on the Georgetown District. He will also be replacing Kendal Young as the Forest's point of contact for the SOFAR Collaborative.

The Forest may want to work with the SOFAR Collaborative to explore putting in fuel breaks as treatment to protect spotted owls.

The Chief of the Forest Service is going to come to the area to look at Fire Adapted 50.

Projects Funded

Cal Fire has funded a number of projects in the SOFAR project area. Participation in SOFAR definitely helped secure this funding, according to Chief Mike Webb. Eldorado County was the second largest receiver of funds. SOFAR stakeholders are working to coordinate the work of multiple partners throughout SOFAR. This coordination and common strategy helped partners strategize on which projects, many underway for a long time, to submit for funding creating a package of projects. The goal is to continue coordinating on implementation and submitting projects for funding in other SOFAR project areas and throughout the region.

Priority Focus Areas and Advancing Projects

Sly Park to Camino

Lots of great progress because project partners received Cal Fire California Climate Investments (CCI) grants to support work moving forward. Sly Park may have met its goals for resiliency. The next step is to think about maintenance and how to do it.

The RCD for Sly Park received \$1 million from Fire Adapted 50 and \$500,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, treating 3,000 acres.

Cal Fire CCI provided \$1.9 million for implementation in the private non-industrial area with 60 different landowners.

The Pollock Pines Camino Fire Safe Council received a CCI grant for \$634,880 to complete 2.3 miles of shaded fuel break along Weber Creek drainage, 2.5 miles of road clearance with the gated community of Rancho Del Sol, and conduct some herbicide treatment to retard regeneration.

EID received three grants from Cal Fire:

- The Sly Park Vegetation Management Project proposes to reduce vegetation in a fuel reduction zone of 118.5 acres and nearly 10 mile(s) long by 100 feet wide along the perimeter of Jenkinson Lake and 75 feet wide along both banks of the three primary tributaries in the Sly Park Recreation Area (SPRA) in Pollock Pines
- The Weber Lake Vegetation Management Project proposes to reduce hazardous fuel vegetation along the north side of Weber Reservoir.
- Camp 5/Flume 46 Vegetation Management Project will reduce the risk of wildfire at both facilities.

Eldorado National Forest received funding to conduct work in empty lots near Camino and Sly Park.

SPI is also conducting a lot of work in this project area. They are installing a fuel break and plan to install another next year. They are getting ready to submit a plan for about 1400 acres from the SMUD yard up to Ice House Resort. They are connecting to Fire Adapted 50 work.

SPI is trying out submittal of a "Modified Timber Harvest Plans" that will allow them to treat fuel breaks on smaller parcels without doing a full blown timber harvest plan. The Board of Forestry is revisiting stocking standards, which many believe are too high from a fuels and even commercial point-of-view.

Cal Licensed Foresters Association Nov. 9 Brown Bag being hosted by Blodgett and SPI to look at stocking standards and will include a Blodgett tour.

Future Discussion item: Treatments for Maintenance

The group would like to discuss treatments for maintenance at a future meeting. For example, the using herbicides, managing oak canopy (at about 40-50%), and using fire (sometime effective and sometimes not) would be subjects of discussion.

Chili Bar to Georgetown

This working group has been holding meetings to identify potential projects. Community outreach is the first priority to involve residents. There's a few fire safe councils around this area, but none in the this specific area so the group is contemplating whether expanding the Georgetown Fire Safe Council might make sense. As there are no large landowners in the area, working with individual homeowners is essential.

Cal Fire is preparing a map of the area to share at the Sept 12 SOFAR Collaborative meeting.

Craig Thomas and Mark Egbert met with BLM's Bill Haig, who is retiring this week. BLM has completed an EA for 200 feet from roads and structures. He will recommend that BLM continue having a representative participate in SOFAR meetings.

The group is going to dovetail with a Caltrans meeting on hazard tree removal for outreach purposes.

Chief Webb would like to see the funding in this area in 2019 or 2020 at the latest.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, at 9:00, 8/27 next meeting, at Garden Fire District
- Caltrans is holding a meeting on Wed, 8/29, at 6pm at Golden Sierra High School Gymnasium

Headwaters – Caples

Scott Rodgers is the new Placerville district ranger. The small group will brief the new ranger. This group will present to the SOFAR collaborative at its November meeting.

Tahoe Central Sierra Grant to the Eldorado

This will fund 4 projects that were all analyzed previously. Here is the press release:

Subject: Approx. \$5M in Eldorado NF project funding through CAL FIRE grants -- FW: Final TCSI news release

FYI – Several projects on the Eldorado National Forest have received funding through [CAL FIRE's California Climate Investments Forest Health Grant Program](#) in partnership with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. See also news release and map attached.

- **Blacksmith:** Funds are requested for the removal of 500 acres of biomass yarded to landings during commercial and non-commercial mechanical thinning treatments and then to a biomass facility. Tractor piling of surface fuels or mastication is planned for all of the mechanical thinning areas. The funding will cover 500 acres of piling and an additional 142 acres of mastication of small shrubs and small trees. In addition, funding will cover mastication in 145 acres of younger plantations with follow-up shrub control on 26 acres using foliar herbicide application to reduce shrub competition with these trees and maintain lower flame lengths in the event of a wildfire.

- **Revenant:** The proposal includes mechanical thinning, mastication, tractor piling, hand treatment and prescribed fire. Funds are requested to remove 500 acres of biomass yarded to landings through commercial and non-commercial mechanical thinning treatments to a biomass facility, and for tractor piling of surface fuels in 700 acres mechanically thinned as part of this project.

- **Tobacco Gulch:** This project was designed to implement mechanical thinning, tractor piling, and mastication and prescribed fire treatments to modify fire behavior and improve forest health and resilience over this landscape to protect the nearby community of Georgetown and important forest lands in this area. Initial mechanical treatments are being completed with the assistance of a 2017 GHG Reduction Grant. To build upon this work prescribed fire treatments are planned across 2,560 acres in this project where mechanical treatments are restricted, where previous treatments have occurred and require maintenance, and as a part of the compilation of treatments designed to achieve desired fuel conditions in mechanically treated stands. The work includes preparation of fire lines including scraping hand lines, installing tractor lines, falling danger trees, hand thinning needed to prep burn units, ignition, mop-up and patrol activities.

- **King Fire Projects:** This proposal contains a portion of the over 10,000 acres of National Forest System lands which burned at high intensity in the 2014 King Fire. Due to the brush regrowth it will be necessary to first have an initial site preparation step to control competing vegetation and maximize seedling growth and survival. This can involve either mastication or site prep broadcast burning. Removal and piling of existing fuels is proposed to reduce fuel loading and better ensure survival of seedlings in future wildfires through skidding and piling at landings on 1000 acres where salvage logging was limited due to loss of road access and limited mill capacity following the fire. Biomass from a minimum of 250 acres will be transported to a biomass facility for utilization. Following site preparation, a mix of Ponderosa pine, Sugar Pine, Douglas-fir and Incense cedar will be planted to density of 200 trees per acre to ensure that the soils hold appropriately and do not contribute to poor water quality. Survival surveys will be conducted at the end of the first and third growing season to ensure adequate survival and stocking of planted seedlings on 1515 acres. ****Includes King - Caesar; King - Pre-fire plantations; and King - Younger Projects****

Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative Outcomes

The group circulated the outcomes for the Tahoe Central Sierra. The purpose of these outcomes is to be high-level landscape-scale, not something measurable. There's no need to revisit the SOFAR desired outcomes.

Next Meeting

Sept. 27, 1:00-3:00

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