



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

## Collaborative Group - Meeting Summary

Meeting held September 12, 2018

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute

### Meeting in Brief

Collaborative members shared updates on strategic planning and project coordination in priority focus areas for Sly Park / Pollack Pines and Chili Bar to Georgetown. Several projects recently received funding in the Sly Park / Pollack Pines focus area, benefiting from the focus area sub-group's collaboration to better coordinate and competitively seek funding.

The Chili Bar to Georgetown sub-group identified specific areas of interest and compiled information to develop more robust maps of the area. The sub-group's next steps involve conducting landscape planning with key partners and expanding outreach with landowners.

El Dorado County will hold stakeholder meetings in late September to discuss Defensible Space Ordinance parameters.

The group continued its discussion on what constitutes a SOFAR Collaborative project. Members indicated they need to further develop a process by which project sponsors should engage the Collaborative for the project to be associated with SOFAR. Members also suggested revisiting the SOFAR charter to determine if it still satisfies the group's current needs.

The next Collaborative Group meeting will be on **November 14, 1:30-4:00**.

### Action Items

Who	What
All	Contact CBI if there are any edits to the August 2018 progress report.
All	Send training and meeting information to CBI to post to the SOFAR website.
Steering Committee	Further discuss the categories and process to qualify as a SOFAR Collaborative project.
CBI	Work with planning team and stakeholders to review the SOFAR charter to determine if it still meets the group's needs and goals.

## Meeting Summary

### Work Plan Progress Report | August 2018

[View report](#). The progress report provides a status update on 2018 SOFAR activities to date. The progress report also summarizes projects occurring in the SOFAR region that received funding through Cal Fire's 2018 California Climate Investments (CCI) Forest Health Grant Program.

Collaborative members were asked to review the progress report and contact CBI with any edits.

### Sly Park to Camino Focus Area

[View slides](#). Since the June Collaborative meeting, this focus area sub-group met to identify and map current and prospective projects. This informed more strategic coordination efforts for project implementation and grant applications. SOFAR participants and partners received multiple grants and will continue to pursue funding opportunities aligned with the SOFAR cohesive strategy objectives. The sub-group also scoped several projects to consider in the future as funding and resources become available. A few other grants exist and another CCI grant cycle will be available next year; the sub-group strongly encourages project proponents to map and share their ideas early to prepare for these funding opportunities.

**Target Areas:** South Fork of the American River Canyon Rim – King Fire footprint; Sly Park; and Weber Creek drainage.

**Partners:** Cal Fire, Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, Camino / Pollock Pines Fire Safe Council, Georgetown / El Dorado Resource Conservation District (RCD), and Eldorado National Forest (ENF)

**Project Updates:** Many projects in this focus area received funding through Cal Fire's CCI grant program (\$5,711,099) and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (\$500,000). Refer to the [SOFAR progress report](#) for more information on CCI projects in the SOFAR area. The following summarizes major status updates on both CCI-funded activities and other projects in the focus area:

#### *General Activities*

- The local Fire Safe Councils continue to conduct a tremendous amount of projects in community open areas and roadway clearances along with Cal Fire and County Department of Transportation (DOT) activities.
- \$51,000 funding for the annual Forestry Challenge.
- The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council recently reissued its chipper program. 40% of requests came from the Pollock Pines area, demonstrating expanding local awareness and support for fuels management.
- The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council's Integrated Fire Plan, as part of the County's Community Wildlife Protection Plan, is being approved and will help inform development and implementation of community projects.

### *National Forest Lands*

- US Forest Service (USFS) is working with the Mule Deer Foundation and El Dorado RCD to treat over 2000 acres of USFS lands near Sly Park. Planning is expected to be completed in early 2019.

### *Camp 5/Flume 46*

- Cal Fire awarded EID \$280,000 in the latest CCI grant cycle to treat a large parcel EID owns at Ditch Camp 5 and Flume 46 along El Dorado Canal. This area intersects with Cal Fire and SPI fuels treatment activities and demonstrates the importance of sharing information to envision how individual projects can contribute to the overall landscape management.

### *Sly Park*

- Cal Fire awarded Fire Adapted 50 (FA50) an additional \$1 million for mastication in Sly Park Lake area on both EID and SPI properties along the Park Creek corridor and Jenkinson Lake. To date, about 700 acres have been treated. 650 acres of mastication occurred around Jenkinson Lake; 176 of those acres will be treated as part of the FA50 fuel break strategy, and another 176 acres have been approved for a fuel break along the main ridge.
- SPI will also expand the treated areas on either side of Park Creek Road (to 500 feet on either side) up Iron Mountain Ridge and eventually tying to Mormon Emigrant Trail (MET). Cal Fire, EID, and SPI aim to ultimately have one long string of fuel breaks along ridgelines and MET all around Jenkinson Lake.
- The Sly Park Vegetation Management Project (VMP) has advanced substantially around Jenkinson Lake. EID has not been able to treat the area between the reservoir and the road due to restrictions under the VMP regulatory scheme; however, EID plans to treat down to the lake-edge where the greatest amount of people traffic and potential emission sources occur during summer.

### *Weber Creek Drainage*

- Pollock Pines-Camino Fires Safe Council received \$624,880 to reduce fuels on the ridgeline above the Weber drainage.
- EID received \$1.3 million to reduce hazardous fuel vegetation along the north side of Weber Reservoir and tie into the Pollock Pines-Camino Fire Safe Council's fuels reduction activities. This high-risk area is also where the Rancho Del Sol community is, and residents are very concerned about fire risk in their area.

### *Patterson Lake*

- The County Fire Safe Council has \$525,000 for Patterson Ranch.

### *Related Activities outside of the Focus Areas*

- King Fire: USFS and Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI) received CCI funding for King Fire restoration.
- Cleveland Fire: SPI recently submitted for 1,450 acres of the Cleveland Fire footprint for fuel break thinning. This area will extend from the SMUD yard up to the resort at Icehouse and down Peavine Ridge. This area is currently one of the biggest fire start areas in the state.

## **Discussion**

- A member suggested erecting interpretative signs in highly visited areas. An EID representative said they intend to post two interpretive signs for a recent burn at the entrance of Sly Park.

- A Cal Fire representative estimated about 3,000-4,000 acres are scheduled for fuels treatment under the CCI funding. An attendee suggested the total acreage should be conveyed to the public
- Masticated vegetation in the Jenkinson Lake area will likely be left in the treated area at this point in time due to limited access for equipment and the treated areas cannot carry fire well (i.e., masticated vegetation is low to the ground, and the tree species have short and small needles).
- A USFS representative suggested renaming the focus areas to more accurately convey the collective projects' footprint.
- Attendees commended the sub-group members and partners for their collaborative efforts. Attendees also noted how local residents are greatly contributing to this collaborative process.

### **Chili Bar to Georgetown Focus Area**

The Chili Bar to Georgetown Focus Area sub-group identified specific areas of interest and compiled information to develop more robust maps of the area. The maps will help identify and articulate projects for funding opportunities. The sub-group identified three main pillars for management in this focus area: landscape treatment, roadside clearing for egress and regress, and defensible space. A communications workgroup helped hold a well-attended wildlife awareness meeting (>100 attendees).

The number of small parcels and large number of stakeholders make this focus area a challenge to coordinate and engage so many people. The sub-group also emphasized SOFAR will need to help the new US Bureau of Land Management staff learn about the issues and management needs in the focus area.

A USFS and Cal Fire grant for \$25,000-\$30,000 is being developed to sponsor Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) workshops through the University of California Cooperative Extension program. The workshops will provide training for those unfamiliar with prescribed burning, but who are interested in applying prescribed burns on their landscapes appropriately and effectively. The trainings may start late 2018/early 2019.

Next steps for the sub-group include expanding landscape planning with interested parties (especially the three nearby agencies); conducting strategic outreach with landowners to expand fuel break networks, and working with Caltrans and DOT on funding opportunities and developing priority road systems for fire engine access.

### **County Ordinance and Programs**

County Supervisors worked over the summer on a vegetation abatement program.

The County currently has a vacant lot ordinance that requires landowners to clean up the lot or face a fine. The County has been pursuing a defensible space ordinance that would require landowners to create defensible space by managing vegetation around structures or otherwise pay for someone else to do the work. The County will hold a couple stakeholder meetings in late September to discuss the draft ordinance's parameters.

Members observed that County residents are becoming more aware of wildfire impacts and their responsibilities to prevent devastating fires.

Members commended County Supervisors Veercamp and Hidahl's leadership to help the County to become more resilient and prevent devastating fires.

### What is a SOFAR Project?

View [9/12/18 SOFAR Project handout](#).

The Collaborative has been discussing how to accurately portray projects within the SOFAR area that have varying levels of advancing the Cohesive Strategy goals and engagement with SOFAR participants (View [May meeting summary](#) for additional context). The group considered how identifying zones of agreement (e.g., supported management actions) may help streamline the NEPA process for projects and actions the Collaborative Group broadly supports. Members acknowledged the challenging time constraints; however, they underscored early engagement and collaboration still need to be part of the process to qualify as a SOFAR Collaborative project.

Members reviewed the proposed labels and criteria for projects that occur in the SOFAR area ([View handout](#)).

#### Proposed Project Labels

- **SOFAR Consensus Project** – All charter signatories support.
- **SOFAR Cohesive Strategy** – Works toward SOFAR three goals.
- **SOFAR Project** – Works toward at least one SOFAR goal. SOFAR partners sign on as needed / interested.
- **Collaboration Priority Focus Areas** – Areas for focused, strategic collaboration that work toward the three goals.
- **Project in the SOFAR Watershed** – Does not meet any SOFAR goals.

### Discussion

Members expressed concerns that a “consensus” project may imply that all SOFAR signatories unanimously support that project; however, the SOFAR charter states that “consensus” can also be achieved through a supermajority vote. It was suggested that the charter may require an update to suit the current needs of the group.

Several members stated they want to review and discuss projects that may become associated with the SOFAR Cohesive Strategy. A challenge is too many projects exist in the expansive SOFAR area for the Collaborative to discuss all projects. Members suggested ways that projects proponents could work with the group that fosters collaboration in a timely manner (e.g., notify the group early in the design process, make a presentation to the group, etc.).

Representatives from the Sierra Forest Legacy (SFL) emphasized the importance for stakeholders to work with agencies to collaboratively develop projects. As an example,

they described their challenges with categorical exclusion processes they felt limited their options to offer alternatives to actions they oppose.

A few members indicated they are not necessarily seeking formal approval from the group on all projects/actions, or are able to support certain actions per their obligations to their respective agencies. However, they value opportunities the Collaborative offers to disseminate information and more strategically optimize resources.

A representative from SNC noted that as a funder, projects are more competitive if they demonstrate they were developed collaboratively.

With so many projects, members requested projects be explicitly identified when they are collaborative SOFAR projects compared to projects solely developed by one entity.

### Next Steps

- The Steering Committee will work with stakeholders to review the charter to determine if it still meets the groups needs and goals.
- The planning team will further discuss the categories and process to qualify as a SOFAR project.

### Announcements and General Updates

- Major entities, including the USFS Interim Chief Vicki Christiansen, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, and the State Board of Food and Agriculture recently received briefings on SOFAR activities and have been highly impressed with SOFAR's achievements and collaboration.
- A representative from the Northern Sierra Summer Home Owner Associations shared that cabin owners greatly appreciated when the USFS staff presented information on FA50 to them back in March.
- Jonathen Kusel presented on communities and forest stability a few months ago. He has been applying many cutting-edge strategies and technologies (e.g., Quincy Public Works building relying on biomass heat/power and applying that technology to other facilities across the landscape).
- The next SNC Board meeting may be rescheduled to March 2019. Send field tour ideas to SNC representatives.
- A SFL representative shared a recently published article on [bio-char and organic agriculture](#).

### Upcoming Meetings

<b>Collaborative</b>	<b>Landscape Vision Committee</b>
<p><i>The SOFAR Collaborative meets on the second Wednesday of each month, 1:30-4:00 pm.</i></p> <p><i>Note: no October meeting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 14, 1:30-4:00</li> </ul>	<p><b>Location:</b> <i>Placerville Supervisor's Office, 100 Forni Rd, Placerville, CA.</i></p> <p><i>Note: no September meeting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 25, 1:00-4:00</li> </ul>

Always check [sofarcohesivestrategy.org](http://sofarcohesivestrategy.org) for meeting location and latest information.

### Meeting Participants (who signed in)

Lori	Parlin	
Sue	Taylor	
Jeff	Blewett	Cal4 / RTF
Mike	Webb	CAL FIRE
Jose	Crummett	EDC GIS
Steve	Willis	El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
Brian	Veerkamp	El Dorado County Supervisor
Michael	Ranalli	El Dorado County Supervisor
Kenneth	Payne	El Dorado County Water Agency
Dan	Corcoran	Environmental Manager, El Dorado Irrigation District
Kevin	Vella	National Wild Turkey Federation
Kathy	Lewin	Northern Sierra Summer Home Owner Associations [Hwy 50 Cabins]
David	Zelinsky	Sierra Club
Ben	Solvesky	Sierra Forest Legacy
Craig	Thomas	Sierra Forest Legacy
Andy	Fristensky	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Chris	Dow	Sierra Pacific Industries
Duane	Nelson	Trout Unlimited El Dorado Chapter, Fire Safe Council
Jennifer	Chapman	USFS - ENF
Kendal	Young	USFS - ENF
Nancy	Nordensten	USFS - ENF
Scot	Rogers	USFS - ENF
Jason	Sieg	USFS - ENF - Georgetown Ranger District
Will	Harris	USFS - ENF - Georgetown Ranger District
Sarah	Sawyer	USFS - ENF - Pacific District
Teresa	Riesenhuber	USFS - ENF - Supervisors Office