

Notes: SOFAR Landscape Vision Committee

Held: Dec. 12, 2018

Updates

The Eldorado National Forest has funding for facilitation through August 2019. The Forest is searching for funding and will explore cost sharing with other SOFAR partners.

EID Project Proposal

EID is submitting a grant proposal for three projects for CalFire funding. The Landscape Vision Committee recommended that these projects receive a letter of support from SOFAR. The full Collaborative recommended this the Landscape Vision review the projects since the Collaborative is not meeting until January.

1) El Dorado Canal Vegetation Management Project

This project affects critical infrastructure provides approximately one-third of EID's water. This first round of work is inadequate. The second entry would be commercial. One concern is that the public money is being used to prepare for commercial benefit. EID explained that the revenue from the commercial sale goes back into EID's general fund, hopefully for future treatment elsewhere.

Another person recommended that the group consider the project in-hand rather than the anticipation of further projects.

The work group recommended that EID consider that 12-inch standard would have a better effect than the planned 10-inch standard. However, participants recognized that treating 12-inches is significantly more costly.

For this project, EID must stay with 10-inches due to aesthetics (it's a recreation area) and costs.

This project also ties in to the Fire Adapted 50 Project.

2) Deer Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Vegetation Management Project (OUTSIDE of SOFAR)

The wastewater treatment plan is a critical facility.

The project is outside of SOFAR, but would protect Cameron Park and Eldorado Hills. EID is treating chaparral and applied the 10-inch diameter.

Questions / Comments

- Mastication of chaparral will not last long.
- The Fire Safe Council near Cool did a similar project, and the area looked heartier six years later.

- If it involves White-Leaf Manzanita, then mastication works to convert the vegetation. If it's any sort of re-sprouting, then it won't work.
- There's a significant fire history in this area. Mike Webb, Calfire, thinks that EID needs to clear it and then acknowledge that EID will need maintenance within 5 years.
- EID acknowledged that it has an opportunity to be more innovative in the future, but needs to get in there to do this initial work.

3) Sly Park Understory Management and Hazard Tree Removal Project

This is a proposal to do herbicide treatment on 450 acres, treated previously, so EID can prepare to come back in and introduce fire. Although it is within a water basin that provides water for the county, the treatment is warranted.

Another element of the project is to fell trees killed by beetles.

EID will need to identify the exact type of treatment and the type of herbicide. Most of the area has been masticated over the last two years. EID's water quality team is very sensitive to the use of herbicide and will be very involved. The project will undergo a CEQA review. The long-term plan is to convert the area to beer clover and to run fire over all of this.

Participants suggested that herbicides are ok if we have a goal to convert to another vegetation structure and manage with fire.

Another participant recommended that EID consider sharing its best practices for these projects.

Project Indicators

The Landscape Vision WG previously discussed that it would like to establish a common set of indicators for projects to include in grant proposals and to measure across the various efforts. The WG will discuss potential options for establishing these indicators.

The WG was not that interested in developing specific indicators at this time for ranking projects against one another. The WG would like to advance all the projects at this time.

The WG could use the cohesive strategy goals / sub-goals, TCSI desired landscape outcomes, and the cohesive strategy goals to support framing the project.

Review List of Actions of Potential Controversy / Non-controversial

The Collaborative would like to discuss the list of actions that might or might not be controversial toward a goal of helping project sponsors to anticipate support / concern with projects and correspondingly streamline approval processes.

Ben Solvesky authored the list, which represents 80 environmental organizations, to prepare for a meeting with the Regional Office of the U.S. Forest Service. The WG discussed and refined the list and will bring it to the full Collaborative for review.

Remove

Road decommissioning

Non-controversial

Develop some language on herbicide for first or second entry, non indefinitely.

Prescribed fire with agency-approved plan

Removing trees less than ~~12~~-16" dbh

Road repairs to improve water quality

Add: Road repairs to provide fire fighting access.

Herbicide use as a temporary treatment to change vegetation conditions or to treat non-natives, not as long-term maintenance strategy

Moderate Controversy "Yellow Light" – needs some discussion

Herbicide near drinking water source

Rare plant habitat should not be used as staging area.

What About?

Riparian areas – are already covered via best practices

Evacuation routes – existing agencies suggest that the treatment areas.

Definitions

Hazard Tree – middle of a camp ground. Impact human life and safety.

Salvage Tree – middle of the forest.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Info sharing for projects outside of SOFAR.

Background Work

1. Meeting notes @ <http://sofarcohesivestrategy.org/meetings/>
2. Link to [Project Priorities Development List](#) (on Google Drive)
3. Link [Desired Conditions Zone Table](#) (on Google Drive)