

SOFAR Focus Area: Chili Bar to Georgetown Work Group

March 25 2019 Meeting Notes

1) Update from work by Craig Thomas and Mark Egbert on Chili Bar to Georgetown phase 1 project planning and next steps in moving this planning and project work forward.

Analysis concepts and work completed for initial project development for the area was presented. Based on current grant and funding a proposal project for 500-1000 acres is being developed, while also putting together a replicable criteria for selecting and prioritizing areas across the landscape. The sample presented was based on the first phase of analysis for the Garden Valley Quadrangle Map area and included spatial area for (see attached maps):

- Identify roads for ingress and egress during a fire emergency (county maintained and unmaintained roads only included in this analysis).
- Polygons for preliminary concept fuel breaks along ridgetops that includes a slope criteria
- Vegetation types to inform types of treatment needed
- Ownership

Additional information discussed to be considered and included is resource values at risk, distribution of hydrants and other water distribution systems.

Next Steps:

- Complete analysis for the entire area
- Apply for grants this summer for planning and implementation work
 - There was some discussion about how to offer connection with CFIP/Equip for interested landowners to be able to efficiently accomplish treatments.
 - Conservancy funding and Joint Chiefs' were discussed. Mark has been working to develop a Joint Chiefs' opportunity for this project. Preliminary proposals are typically due in July with an October/November deadline for the full application.
 - CCI grant funding is another option, but may be focused on specific areas designated by the state and not allocated to this area for the coming cycles.
- Define roles and responsibilities. Develop MOU.
 - BLM does not have right away to most of their parcels.
 - Where NEPA has been completed for this work on BLM, surveys still need to be done.
- Present the concepts and preliminary analysis to the SOFAR landscape group in April and the larger group in May.

2) Rx Fire Workshop at Blodgett May 17- 18 (see attached flyer)

Opportunity to become trained in prescribed fire and expand capacity for interested citizens across the area. As a working group we need to look at and build in both maintenance of key treatments across time as we work on this landscape and also the ecological needs of fire for achieving the desired elements of landscape resilience.

3) Communication and community outreach with a discussion on what is being done and planned and on CMAT best practices

Mark Johnson presented information on lessons learned and best practices from the Community Mitigation Assistance Team (See attachment). Key points were

- Treating vegetation is only a piece of the puzzle we are trying to achieve for fire safe communities. Efforts and considerations also need to be included for discussing home hardening concepts with homeowners.
 - Several good YouTube videos and information on home hardening has been developed by Dr. James Cohen with the USFS.
 - There are several, fairly inexpensive steps that homeowners can and should take to harden their homes across this landscape to reduce risk of loss. This is important whether or not fuel break and forest resilience work is being prioritized nearby a residence or in other areas of the landscape.
 - Homeowners should be working from the house out in their prioritization of reducing their fire risk.
- To be successful, person to person outreach with homeowners is needed. There is a good opportunity to do this as we discuss treatment opportunities and easement needs with individual landowners. Getting the information to interested and active community members who will continue discussions with their neighbors is needed.

4) Updates

- FSC: grant information is expected in the first part of April.
- RCD: Mosquito FSC has secured funding for one of their units and Rock Creek to Mosquito Roadside work. RCD is working on a fuel break along the King Fire mitigation lines from Chili Bar to Forebay.
- Forest Service: NWTF has awarded the Tobacco Gulch timber sale and implementation work is expected this summer/fall. Mastication, hand thinning, rx burning and piling have all been occurring on the project over the last year. Forest Service completed a maintenance burn on 40 acres along Bottlehill road last week.

5) Follow-up Items.

- There was discussion of developing and MOU with the applicable partners for this project. Templates should be available based on other MOUs currently in place.
- Contact with CalFire's new Chief behind Mike Webb.

Next Meetings

Monday April 22nd at 9:15 at Station 51 in Garden Valley

Tuesday May 28th at 9:15 at Station 51 in Garden Valley (note 4th Monday in May is Memorial Day, so meeting has been moved to Tuesday).