

# NOTES24: SOFAR Landscape Vision Committee

May 31, 2019

## Meeting in Brief

The Committee will develop a strategy for red fir over the next 10 months (by April 2020) on the SOFAR landscape and beyond.

The headwaters focus area group will meet sometime this summer. Jason Sieg is interested in organizing a new focus area around Crystal Basin.

## Action Items

**Scott** will organize a Headwaters meeting in June or July with Travis, Brian Deeson, Ben, Jason, Mike from Calfire

**Dana, Ben, Gina** - write up a 1-2 page framing document with work plan / timeline for July 25

**Ben** - share red fir sections from the Sierra and Sequoia Forest Plans

**Becky** - Contact Rod Kelsey about TCSI assessment and historic range of variability (red fir)

**Becky** - will find and share the notes from a regional red fir workshop in 2013.

**Dana** - Reach out to Beverly to contribute / help

**Ben** - share the Ecological Resource Institute Dwarf Mistletoe paper

*From previous meetings*

**CBI** will organize a landscape priority meeting for late summer or early fall.

## [Link to All Meeting Materials](#)

## Developing Red Fir Strategy

The Landscape Vision Committee has agreed to develop a framework or strategy to address red fir in the SOFAR watershed and beyond. The goal of the committee is to avoid having a project-by-project approach and instead to establish mutual understanding and conceptual agreement on the options for treating red fir.

The Eldorado's Forest Plan does not provide specific direction on red fir, nor is the science clear across the range and elevations where red fir exists. The committee might identify desired outcomes or sample prescriptions for red fir. The group will avoid absolutes (being too specific or overly restrictive). The Eldorado National Forest anticipates having work that will occur on areas with red fir that would go beyond the SOFAR watershed. NEPA would need to begin in about one year so the committee agreed to develop its strategy by April 2020.

## Anticipated Red Fir Strategy Considerations

Organize around Elevation	Aspect	Other Factors
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Alpine Sub-alpine Red Fir majority Mixed confider with pine	South-facing North-facing	Understory species Dwarf mistletoe Soil  Climate
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Dwarf mistletoe is a companion species, and the strategy will need to address that as well. One person observed that the Forest Service tends to reduce overhead canopy where mistletoe occurs. Mark Meyers has developed a General Technical Report (GTR) that demonstrates that range-wide current mistletoe is about the same as historical.

By April 2020, the group hopes to develop a consensus-based vision and strategy with desired outcomes and recommended options for treatment.

There is a lack of information on red fir and dwarf mistletoe and fire interval (the group agreed to wait on this.)

### Resources

- PSW
- Forest Health Program, Regional Office
- TCSI is doing assessments: Rod Kelsey from TNC is doing an assessment on historic range of variability by cover type. It will be broader, but could inform the strategy. ; PSW is developing what is resilience)
- Sierra and Sequoia Forest Plans have red fir component
- New GTR by Mark Meyer on the natural range of variability for mistletoe
- Steve Schwartzbach, retired ecologist (via David Zelinsky)
- 2013 Red Fir workshop at the regional level. Not much came out. Need monitoring. Largely triggered by salvage logging in late 70s and early 80s.

### Steps

1. Dana and Ben: Develop framework, work plan, and intent
2. Review existing information and resources
3. Develop strategy by April 2020

### Action Items

- Dana, Ben, Gina - write up a 1-2 page framing document with work plan / timeline for July 25
- Ben - share red fir sections from the Sierra and Sequoia Forest Plans
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## **Incorporating County Wildfire Protection Plans into SOFAR Work**

CWPPs apply to private lands only. The countywide CWPP serves as the “umbrella” CWPP incorporating each fire safe council's plan. The RCD is the best link between the fire safe councils and the county.

Emma works in GIS at the County. Emma spoke with the consultant who does the maps for the Fire Safe Councils. Some areas are mapped, and some are not mapped. Emma now has the data that exists. The County is now developing a cell-tower GIS layer that can be shared with the Fire Safe Councils. (The County currently has permits with parcel numbers, but they do not have a GIS layer.)

Emma is happy to make a map of all the fire safe councils, which exists, then it might be helpful to add the neighborhoods.

The FS has received most of the existing projects on GIS.

## **Science Talk Prep for Sept. 11**

Stephen Quarles will present at the Sept. 11 Science Talk. The Committee thinks it would be helpful to have Dr. Quarles address the following questions.

How best to create community resilience?

Best planning practices within and adjacent to communities

What can we do about wind-driven events and the conflagration of embers?

What do you do in the community? What do you do about in the broader area?

What can the group do beyond building codes?

How can he help articulate the costs and long-term benefit of doing treatments?

## **Focus Area Meetings**

The committee is going to organize focus area meetings in cases in which they have not met recently.

Chili Bar-Georgetown Focus Area meets regularly.

Headwaters

Scott (will organize), Travis, Brian Deeson, Ben, Jason, Mike from Calfire

Camino-to-Pollack Pines

This effort needs a map. The group talks on an ongoing basis and includes Scott, Mark Egbert, Heather Campbell, Travis,

The Sly Park project is outside of this area.

Crystal Basin and the rest of Highway 50

This may emerge as a new focus area. Joint chiefs funding exists.  
Mark Egbert and Tom Tinsley would be important.  
Caltrans is also a big player.

**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)