

NOTES26: SOFAR Landscape Vision Committee

July 25, 2019

Meeting in Brief

The Committee reviewed and offered clarifying edits to the Red Fir Strategy Development Approach document. CBI will incorporate these edits and send to Beverly Bulaon for input. Dana will lead coordinating the August 29 red fir field trip, which will focus on visiting sites of overstory removal, potential overstory removal, and discuss other management considerations (mistletoe levels, climate change implications, burning, regeneration, etc.).

Land Managers meeting should focus on sharing information, identifying the management needs across the landscape, and discussing partnership opportunities and next steps

Action Items

1. **CBI** to update the Red Fir Strategy Development Approach document and send to Beverly for her input.
2. **CBI** to add Beverly to the Landscape Vision mailing list.
3. **CBI** to work with Ben, Becky, and Beverly to obtain the remaining Red Fir documents to post to the SOFAR website.
4. **Dana** to coordinate the Aug 29 Red Fir field trip and send out itinerary to the Landscape Vision Committee.
5. **CBI** to work with Pat to provide a TCSI assessment update at a future Landscape Vision meeting.
6. **CBI** to coordinate Land Managers Prioritization Meeting.

[Link to All Meeting Materials](#)

Attendees: Brian Deason, Dana Walsh, Travis Thane, Scot Rogers, David Zelinsky, Ben S, Teresa Riesenhuber, Norma Santiago (phone), Stephanie Horii

Red Fir Strategy Development

The Landscape Vision Committee aims to develop an agreed-upon red fir management strategy in the SOFAR watershed. Committee members drafted a document to capture the purpose, need, intent, and approach for developing the red fir management strategy. Dana Walsh and Ben Solvesky oriented the group to the draft Red Fir Strategy Development Approach document.

[Post-meeting note – [Revised document based on the meeting discussion](#)]

Dana also shared a preliminary dataset and [map of current distribution of Red Fir](#) by their size classes. Much of the older, larger red fir occur in the Headwaters area. Red fir exists in about 22,000 acres across USFS lands in the area; approximately 7,500 acres are in roadless and wilderness areas, leaving about 14,000 acres for potential USFS management.

Discussion takeaways:

- The general management objectives at this current stage is to avoid the status quo of managing red fir project-by-project without understanding the implications across the landscape and to minimize conflicts related to red fir management decisions. Strategy objectives will be further hashed out during the strategy development process.
- Clarify that this effort stemmed from upcoming work in the Headwaters area, which has a higher proportion of red fir than other areas, but the goal is for the red fir management strategy to apply throughout the SOFAR watershed.
- The management strategy recommendations should focus on the SOFAR watershed rather than “dictating” what neighboring management areas should do. The strategy can still consider and apply to areas outside of SOFAR.
- Clarify that the 1989 Eldorado Forest Plan offers details on forest health, but is still vague about red fir management. It is the closest thing to providing management direction for red fir.
- The group discussed the desire to not just manage solely at the landscape level, but to also be more specific on how to decide what desired conditions are appropriate at the stand level that still satisfies landscape-level-management goals.
- The 2013 workshop documents did not produce very conclusive direction.
- Consider contacting Leif Mortenson for input on red fir management.
- Due to the current limited USFS PSW staff's capacity, Dana and Ben recommended waiting on developing the red fir strategy development work plan.
- Confirmed the red fir field trip will be on August 29. Desired objectives is to see sites with overstory removal (e.g., at John Don't) and potential sties for overstory removal. The field trip should also offer an opportunity to discuss mistletoe control, climate change implications (e.g., drought cycles), sanitation, burning, salvage, and regeneration.

Per these discussed edits, the Landscape Vision Committee agreed the strategy approach document accurately captured the intent of the Committee for developing a red fir management strategy. They recommended forwarding the document to Beverly for her input.

Action Items

1. **CBI** to update the Red Fir Strategy Development Approach document and send to Beverly for her input.
2. **CBI** to add Beverly to the Landscape Vision mailing list.
3. **CBI** to work with Ben, Becky, and Beverly to obtain the remaining Red Fir documents to post to the SOFAR website.
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TCSI Assessment, Updates as of 7/25

Pat Manley was unable to attend. CBI provided an update based on conversations with Pat prior to the meeting.

- TCSI plans to include SOFAR into the modeling boundary. They request a shape file to confirm.
- TCSI is still developing and vetting modeling scenarios that may be informational for SOFAR. Updates can be shared at future meeting.
- TCSI will not use the SOFAR area for developing on-the-ground software (tech company already moved ahead).
- A future Landscape Vision meeting is more opportune to discuss TCSI indicators and how they might inform SOFAR project planning.

Dana added that the TCSI assessment will not indicate historical conditions for a given spot in the SOFAR area. It will offer general trends (e.g., how much early seral, late seral, etc. was there) of the current conditions, which can still inform stand-by-stand management decisions.

Action Items

1. **CBI** to work with Pat to provide a TCSI assessment update at a future Landscape Vision meeting.

Headwaters Update

Scot Rogers and Travis Thane shared that they have held a few field trips with partners and other stakeholders on a case-by-case basis. They do not have any prevalent issues to discuss at this stage; therefore, a Headwaters meeting is not warranted at this time. Scot suggested that this may be an opportune time to convene potential partners who have typically been absent from SOFAR meetings to consider how to better coordinate and pursue funding opportunities. This is one of the objectives for the Land Managers Prioritization meeting.

Land Managers Prioritization Meeting for Fall

The group agreed the Land Managers meeting should focus on sharing information, identifying the management needs across the landscape, and discussing partnership opportunities and next steps. The group can discuss the potential for forming a new focus area, but not presume a new focus area is necessary. The group should also discuss implementation capacity (e.g., grant managers).

Land managers to include are: USFS, County Supervisors, SPI, FSCs, RCDs, BLM, SMUD, PG&E, Caltrans, State Parks, and private landowner liaisons (e.g., Kathy Lewin).

Perhaps the Financial Committee (currently inactive) should reconvene to consider a more strategic approach for tracking and pursuing funding opportunities. The group recommended the Financial Committee should wait

until the Land Managers meeting occurs, as outcomes from that meeting will likely inform the Financial Committee discussion.

Action Items

1. **CBI** to coordinate Land Managers Prioritization Meeting

Other Updates

Several EID activities moving forward, including contract bidding for vegetation management at Camp 5/ Flume 46 and El Dorado Canal, and Sly Park hand treatments around Weber Reservoir.

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 \(on Google Drive\)](#)