

SOFAR Red Fir Strategy Version 1.0  
External-Facing Document

## **Introduction**

The South Fork of the American River (SOFAR) Cohesive Strategy Collaborative is developing a red fir strategy (Strategy) for goals and objectives for restoration activities where Red fir exist in the upper headwaters of the SOFAR watershed. Guidance for desired conditions in red fir are provided in a General Technical Report (PSW-GTR- 263); however, minimal guidance exist today for managing red fir, applicable to SOFAR Cohesive Strategy project area. The SOFAR red fir strategy will be a framework document based on a shared vision for desired conditions and management options for treatments at multiple scales from stand to landscape scale. Members of the SOFAR collaborative have attended a red fir field trip on September 9, 2019, which showcased a variety of red fir stand conditions (See Red Fire Field Report for detailed information). Guidance on red fir management will consider historic and present conditions, and threats to red fir viability. The Strategy will also provide recommendations based on the current state, desired state, trajectory for achieving a desired state, and the end goal for management actions. Considerations for implementing guidance will be based on red fir ecology, competing uses, feasibility of management actions, and economic viability.

## **Intent of the SOFAR Red Fir Management Strategy**

The intent of the SOFAR red fir strategy is a strategic framework for management of red fir forest in the upper headwaters of the SOFAR watershed. This Strategy provides guidance and is not a regulatory document replacing forest planning or forest policy.

The Strategy captures a shared vision for the current and desired conditions in red fir forest types and will inform desired conditions at the stand and landscape levels. Development, review, and editing of this Strategy has been a collaborative effort conducted by members of the SOFAR Landscape Committee.

This strategy will allow for the development of future projects based on overall landscape conditions. This Strategy is a living document and should be updated as conditions evolve, new information becomes available, and new tools are developed.

## **Considerations in the development of the Red Fir Strategy**

- Fuels
- Stand density
- Insect and disease mortality and prevention
- Wildland urban interface defense and threat zones
- Habitat management for old growth forest-dependent species
- Future climate conditions

**Potential Management Actions**

- Continue natural succession of forest growth
- Prescribed burning and managed wildfire
- Thinning throughout the diameter range (clumps and gaps)
- Thinning from below (shaded fuel break type thinning)
- Overstory removal
- Interplanting red fir with other species (Jeffrey pine)