



Cohesive Strategy Goals

- Resilient Landscapes •
- Safe & Effective Wildfire Response •
- Fire Adapted Communities •

Ad Hoc SOFAR Land Managers Workshop - Summary

Workshop held December 16, 2019

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute

Overview

Collaborative members and partners met for the second Ad Hoc Land Managers workshop to support project planning and implementation for the [SOFAR Cohesive Strategy](#). The workshop provided an opportunity for a small group of local land managers to identify accomplishments since the first workshop in 2018, set priorities in the SOFAR watershed, and establish near-term project planning and implementation that meet the Cohesive Strategy goals to be ready for the next round of potential funding.

As part of the planning process, participants focused on projects that are/will be through NEPA/CEQA by 5/2020, are in planning and ready for NEPA/CEQA analysis, or are areas that need to be prioritized to get them into planning.

Outcomes

Workshop participants recommended retaining the current work in the three [SOFAR focus areas](#): (1) Chili Bar to Georgetown; (2) Camino-Pollock Pines; and (3) Caples Headwaters, particularly at ingress and egress needs in those areas. The group also identified Crystal Basin as a potential new focus area. Participants recommended planning strategic ingress and egress systems as a major focus/lens across all projects, regardless of geography.

The group is expected to meet again prior to the next round of CCI grants (August 2020).

Priority Focus Areas in SOFAR Watershed

Participants shared progress to date and upcoming work in the three SOFAR focus areas, then discussed potential additional management needs.

Chili Bar to Georgetown. One of the priority goals for this focus area is to improve ingress and egress roadways to support safe and effective wildfire response. The focus area group continues progress in the southeast region of the focus area (Phase 1). This focus area requires substantial private-public landowner collaboration. Phase 2 will require partnering and coordination with several federal agencies. The group also tracks nearby complementary activities outside of the SOFAR boundaries (e.g., Mosquito and Rock Creek Road area) that will likely impact the focus area.

Sly Park, Camino, and Pollock Pines. In 2018, workshop participants created this focus area as an opportunity to better coordinate existing vegetation management activities. Major projects like Fire Adapted 50 continue to progress. Management in this area also requires significant public-private coordination and face local capacity concerns. Upcoming desired work include increasing public awareness, greenhouse gas analysis, and utilizing landscape-scale assessment tools. In general, the focus area group would like to seek funding and support for treatments maintenance.

Headwaters Project: Caples Area. This focus area is an important water supply area and major recreational area. Most of the major vegetation management treatments activities have been completed. Land managers expect current and upcoming work will focus on additional areas requiring treatments (e.g., Pack Saddle, Forgotten Flats, and General Sherman) and treatment maintenance. A couple participants suggested additional actions, such as follow-up treatments where prescribed burns did not fully achieve the desired conditions.

Potential New Focus Area: Crystal Basin. The Crystal Basin area (mostly US Forest Service land) generally encompasses the lands north of Peavine Ridge, south of Bunker Peak area, and west of Crystals. It is also an important clean water source and risk of wildfire (high recreational use, high vegetation). Participants recommended further assessing the treatment needs to inform whether this should be a new priority focus area.

Overarching Topics

Pace and Scale – Capacity Challenges. Collaboration and partnerships are essential to strategically increase pace and scale on the landscape and do so in a way that leverages resources and builds long-term sustainability. Participants acknowledged the overall need to increase the pace and scale of forest and fuels management, and this needs to be coupled with sufficient capacity and resources support. They observed that success in the focus areas comes with new challenges, particularly bandwidth concerns for current and future work (e.g., many fire safe council members are volunteers). Several suggested seeking grant funds to hire a watershed coordinator to help sustain momentum and activities management.

Maintenance/Enhancements. Participants frequently mentioned a lack of funding and coordination to maintain or enhance treatments (e.g., expand buffers). Several areas were treated several years ago and require re-entry and maintenance.

Ingress/Egress Systems. Participants called for a more strategic approach to effective ingress and egress that meets core needs: alternative routes for safe evacuation to minimize traffic jams; staging areas for response crews; “havens” in areas like large parking lots when full evacuation is not possible; and public awareness of evacuation routes and options during an emergency. Participants identified areas around Highway 50 and communities in the Chili Bar-Georgetown, Camino, Pollock Pines, etc. that

should be priority areas for ingress/egress systems. Participants suggested engaging important land managers who were unable to attend (e.g., Caltrans) to develop strategic ingress/egress systems.

Next Step to Develop SOFAR Projects

- Scot Rogers to develop a short description on the need for more strategic ingress/egress system in the Highway 50 region (e.g., connecting roadways in Chili Bar-Georgetown, Camino, Pollock Pines, etc. to Highway 50).
- Ethan Koenigs to gather more information for management needs in the Crystal Basin area as potential new focus area.
- Landscape Vision Committee and Steering Committee will review and discuss next steps.
- The group suggested meeting again prior to the next round of CCI grants (August 2020).

Participants

Mike	Blankenheim	CAL FIRE
Mark	Egbert	El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide RCDs
Andrea Jo	Johnson	El Dorado County RCD
Cameron	Spencer	El Dorado County RCD
Pat	Dwyer	El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
Dan	Corcoran	El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)
Brian	Deason	El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)
Doug	Venable	El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)
Craig	Thomas	Fire Restoration Group, Georgetown FSC
Tamara	Johnston	Georgetown Fire Safe Council
Heather	Campbell	Pollock Pines Camino FSC
Eric	Brown	Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
Ethan	Koenigs	Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
Sue	Britting	Sierra Forest Legacy
Chris	Dallas	Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Mt. Lassen Area Representative
Chris	Dow	Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI)
Rich	Wade	Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI)
Josh	Sjostrom	US Bureau of Land Management - Mother Lode Field Office
Liz	Meyer-Shields	US Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Scot	Rogers	USFS - ENF - Placerville