



**Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions Collaborative General
Membership Meeting Summary
August 21, 2015
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

1. Consider scheduling Yosemite Park and Stanislaus Forest staff for presentations later in the year
2. Co-chairs to draft press release when SNC funds are awarded
3. CC Buckley will draft a letter of support for CDFW Prop One grant. Supervisor Hanvelt and Ms. Lott will agendize for the BOS meeting and IRWMA BOD respectively

AGENDIZE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:

1. Green forest activities discussion to be scheduled
2. Discuss prioritization of projects (Project Workgroup to provide draft recommendations)
3. Brainstorm and describe additional projects for consideration
4. Recommendation for use of NFF funds for outreach
5. Mr. Brink to report back on any news from RO regarding Good Neighbor Authority
6. Project Workgroup – report on funding opportunities (to include USDA?)
7. USFS-short update on where they are with projects
8. Mr. Brian Waylund to report on potential for markets green and bark beetle sales

MEETING GOALS:

- To consider projects for potential funding opportunities
- To hear presentation on SNAP

SUMMARY:

Welcome and Introductions:

Co-Chair Albrecht welcomed the group and self-introductions were made.

Field Trip Report:

Co-Chair John Buckley provided an overview of the two field trips, one for YSS membership and one for politicians and media. He said all attendees' awareness was raised about science-based ways to manage the forest through ICO (individual trees, clumps of trees, and openings). The feedback from the politicians was very positive and significant media attention resulted from the event.

HUD Grant Update:

CC Albrecht said YSS and the USFS put in a proposal, but it appears not to be faring well. The proposal consisted of an \$8M request for NEPA planning for large scale landscape planning in the Rim and other areas of the Tuolumne Watershed. The objective of the proposal is to promote a collaborative science-based ecosystem restoration effort in green forest area around the Rim Fire. The response from the HUD team was that the planning approach may not match HUD grant requirements. It was noted consideration of a rural area for a wildfire disaster is new to HUD as it is focused on urban disasters so many questions are unresolved about how rural area proposal either do or do not match HUD categories.

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Finance Update:

Mr. Patrick Koepele provided a handout that outlined four completed grants that paid for things such as facilitation, a springs and a meadows assessment, and the Groveland Area Involved Neighbors volunteer effort. The open grants include a facilitation grant, restoration of selected meadows, springs, and culverts, and continuation of a volunteer effort that focuses on tree planting and noxious weed removal.

Mr. Koepele said there needs to be more outreach under the current NFF grant. Some of the funds supported the two Experimental field trips and are also supporting the efforts of FO John Amodio in Sacramento. Mr. Koepele recommended expending some portion of the funds to continue FO Amodio's work. When FO Amodio is able to report on his activities at a future meeting, the SC will consider formal action to designate funding amounts for outreach or for educating legislators and Air Board personnel.

AB 32 Report:

Mr. Steve Brink reported on an opportunity for utilizing the Good Neighbor Authority within the Farm Bill for handling some timber sales (<http://www.fs.fed.us/farmbill/gna.shtml>). He spoke with the USFS Regional Office regarding looking at the way Wisconsin utilized this authority and is waiting to hear back. He also noted it is now time to apply for USDA grants.

Mr. Brink referenced the current AB32 letter, in final draft form, regarding comments on the Cap and Trade Auction Proceeds. The letter references the need for large landscape work to address the need to increase the pace and scale of restoration efforts. It also speaks to the incorrect methodology for defining *rural* disadvantaged communities. Ms. Carolyn Lott will be sending in the comments after today's meeting. Any member wanting a copy of the comments can request one from Ms. Lott.

Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAP) Presentation:

Ms. Ann Lombardo provided a presentation on the research done regarding the effect on fuels, water resources, spotted owls, and fishers when doing Strategically Placed Landscape Area Treatments (SPLATS) in study areas within the Sierra Nevada region. The research involved two watershed areas and the information gleaned fed into fire models and other study assessments. The SNAP research program utilized LIDAR, a remote sensing technology that measure reflected light, to provide a picture of the forest. Generally, the SNAP thinning logging treatments and surface fuel treatments resulted in less fire risk based on post-treatment modeling. SPLATS treatment loses its effectiveness after 20-30 years and needs to be repeated. In addition to SPLATS, fire needs to be reintroduced naturally or planned. Impacts were the greatest for understory tree density and shrub cover. Crown fuels do not contribute a large portion of the fire hazards. SPLATS had a positive effect on tree growth and fire suppression efficiency.

Ms. Lombardo referenced other studies on snow measurements, water yield and sediment movement, Fishers and the mortality relationship to rodenticide poisoning, and spotted owl studies. The final report on all these studies can be found at:

<http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/snamp-final-report/>. Members might also be interested in the Sierra Nevada Watershed Ecosystem Enhancement Project (SWEEP)
http://ucanr.edu/sites/cff/Research/Sierra_Nevada_Watershed_Ecosystem_Enhancement_Project/

USFS Updates:

Supervisor Jeanne Higgins said Monday was the second anniversary of the Rim Fire. She enumerated the many activities that have taken place since the fire was extinguished. Of note,

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the Rim Fire Team is doing the final analysis on the reforestation alternatives for the EIS. The draft EIS is expected to be out by the end of the year. She applauded YSS efforts that helped with various components of the recovery process.

Funding Updates:

AB32 – There is still a pending \$2M proposal with CAL FIRE for biomass removal. It is anticipated word should be coming in the next few weeks. There will likely be another funding cycle.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) – Mr. Koepele reported there are existing funded project discussions that SNC staff has been coordinating with TRT and the USFS in order to help finalize the necessary information and documentation so that they can get final consideration for funding.

CA Wildlife Conservation Board (CWCB) – The USFS has put together a draft proposal and the NEPA is done, but not CEQA. Mr. Chris Dallas from SNC said SNC is bringing a new CEQA consultant on board. They would like to look at doing CEQA for the entire Rim Fire area so cumulative effects can be considered. They are still looking at whether the governor's exemption can be used.

Large Landscape Planning:

Supervisor Higgins said the FS would like to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration. There are a number of pilot projects within the region trying to develop models as to how this can be done most effectively. However, the region is maxed out of funding for pilots. There is a desire to get work done in the green forest.

A team of USFS resource specialists was put together to brainstorm landscape analysis planning on 300,000-400,000 acres. Historically, the largest effort on the Stanislaus was about 18,000 acres. Experts from a number of regions of the country participated through video conferencing.

There are various ideas regarding how to do this. The primary area of focus is the Stanislaus River Watershed through the North Fork of the Tuolumne. LIDAR is a desired tool for the planning effort, but is quite costly. The challenge launching forward is capacity. The Rim Fire recovery and reforestation plans consume most of the available local FS resources and the Cornerstone project consumes staffing and resources for the Calaveras District. It is also possible that the Stanislaus Forest will be required to start a Forest Plan revision process next year which would be very time intensive.

Prop One Opportunities:

Mr. Koepele reported there is funding through SNC and CDFW within Prop One. Both agencies have open grant opportunities which include forest health. The SNC first round applications are due Sept. 1 and USFS is working with the CA Conservation Corp (CCC) on an aspen rehabilitation project. The CCC will be the applicant. The CDFW deadline is Sept. 16th. The first round available funding for CDFW is \$24M. Discussions have already taken place regarding applying for a grant for large scale landscape planning. The grant would be for approximately \$3M to fund a rapid assessment using LIDAR to produce a NEPA and CEQA ready document for approximately 300,000-400,000 acres. The goal would be to lead into project level NEPA and CEQA for implementation funds. This would create a whole new model for doing large planning efforts. Mr. Jim Maddox brought up the question of whether YSS needed to move forward as previously discussed with expanding the YSS area of work in order

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to fully include the Prop One landscape level grant area (Stanislaus Watershed and North Fork Tuolumne River Watershed).

Agreement: There was unanimous agreement to expand the YSS area of focus to the area cited in the application and to support submittal of the application to CDFW for Prop One funding of the planning project as described above.

CC Buckley and Mr. Koepele will draft a sample letter of support for consideration by the TC Board of Supervisors and T-Stan IRWMA Board of Directors.

CC Albrecht inquired about product to keep the local timber plants open and Supervisor Higgins replied there is about two years of “shelf stock” that can be put out to bid. It was requested that the USFS provide a brief update on the status of projects. It was also requested that Mr. Brian Waylund update the group on the potential for local plants to handle green and bark beetles salvage wood as the conifer die-off expands in scope.

New YSS Leadership:

CC Albrecht said the nominating committee received agreement from their nominees, Chris Trott for chair and Nathan Graveline for vice-chair to serve for a period of two years commencing January 1, 2016.

Agreement:

The nominees were endorsed and approved as the leadership team for 2016 through 2017.

Other:

CC Buckley spoke about the severity of tree mortality due to the drought even in trees with no visible beetle infestation. Mr. Seth Connolly announced the Eco Summit being held over the coming weekend that includes a Saturday evening fundraiser for the TRT.

Next YSS Steering Committee Meeting:

Friday, Sept. 18th, 1:00-4:00 pm. USFS Sonora Headquarters

Next YSS General Meeting:

Friday, November 20th, USFS Sonora Headquarters

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members

Name	Organization	Attendance
Jerry Jensen	American Forest Resource Council	Present
Jerry Fouts	American Motorcyclist Association, District 36	
Dave Pickett	AMA36/Alternate	
Todd Miller	Blue Mountain Minerals	
Jeff Redoutey	BMM/Alternate	
John Romena	Buena Vista Biomass Power	
Steve Brink	CA Forestry Association	Present
Walt Kruse	Central Sierra Audubon Society	Present
Linda Millsbaugh	CSAS/Alternate	
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present

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Lindsey Meyers	CSERC/Alternate	
	Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians	
Chris Trott	CT Bioenergy Consulting	Present
Jody Trott	CTBC/Alternate	
Scott Gelfand	Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp	
Phil Coffin	FBTC/Alternate	
Jim Dambacher	Dambacher Construction/Landowner	Present
Karl Dambacher	DC/Alternate	Present
Michael Damaso	Merced Dirt Riders/ Stanislaus Trail Bike Association	Present
Paul Maben	Pacific Gas & Electric	
Kamran Rasheed	PG&E Alternate	
Stuart Crook	Permittee/Landowner	
Bob Brennan	PL/Alternate	
Mike Horvath	SFPUC/Natural Resources	
Michael Vroman	San Francisco PUC-Hetch Hetchy	
Peter Dean	PUC/HH Alternate	
Jon Sturtevant	Sierra Club – Tuolumne Group	Present
Rick Delvin	SCTG/Alternate	
Brian Wayland	Sierra Pacific Industries	
	SPI Alternate	
Allen Johnson	SouthWest InterFace Team	
Kelly Bearden	SWIFT Alternate	
	Tuolumne Band Me-Wuk Tribal Council	
Willie Dutra	TBM-WTC/Alternate	
Sherri Brennan	Tuolumne County	Present
John Gray	TC/Alternate	
Mike Albrecht	Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment	Present
Vicki Albrecht	TuCARE/Alternate	
Shaun Crook	Tuolumne County Farm Bureau	Present
Sasha Farkas	TCFB/Alternate	
Lindsay Mattos	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	
Missy Marino	TCRCD/Alternate	
Jim Maddox	Tuolumne County Sportsmen/Yosemite Deer Herd Advisory Council	Present
John Amodio	Tuolumne River Trust	
Patrick Koepele	TRT/Alternate	Present
Seth Connolly	TRT/Alternate	Present
Jim Phelan	Tuolumne-Mariposa Resources Advisory Council	Present

Bill Haigh	Bureau of Land Management	
Nathan Graveline	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	
Joe Meyer	NPS, Yosemite National Park	
Linda Mazzu	NPSYNP/Alternate	

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Chris Dallas	Sierra Nevada Conservancy/Alternate	Present
Scott Tangenberg	USFS Stanislaus NF	
Ann Denton	USFS/Alternate	Present
Marty Gmelin	USFS/Alternate	

LIAISON MEMBERS

COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Carolyn Lott	Carlson Consulting	Present
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OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

Name	Organization
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne County
Jeanne Higgins	USFS
Clare Long	USFS
Cindy Secada	Murphys Sanitary District