



**Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions Collaborative
Steering Committee Meeting Summary
April 17, 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. Convene nominating committee and report on nominee for vice-chair in May.
3. Discuss how YSS can assist the USFS with the environmental degradation document needed for the HUD proposal.
4. Report by CC Buckley on Prop One Workgroup.
5. Co-chairs to draft press release when SNC funds are awarded.
6. CC Buckley to follow up with Tuolumne County and Project Workgroup regarding CEQA work for WCB funds.
7. Ms. Lott to send YSS members an explanation of the focus of the June field trip and ask for commitment responses.

AGENDIZE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:

1. Green forest activities discussion to be scheduled mid-year 2015
2. Discuss prioritization of projects (Project Workgroup to provide draft recommendations)
3. Brainstorm and describe additional projects for consideration

MEETING GOALS:

- Receive updates on projects and funding opportunities
- Discuss YSS leadership succession

SUMMARY:

Welcome and Introductions:

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

Acceptance of March General Membership Meeting Summary:

Agreement: The members approved the meeting summary as distributed.

Recommendation of Nominating Committee:

The committee, consisting of the co-chairs and Jim Phelan met. Mr. Chris Trott was recommended for the position of chair for the 2016-2017 two-year term. Mr. Trott was willing to take on the position. The vice-chair nominee will be brought forward next month.

Agreement: Members unanimously endorsed Mr. Trott as chair for 2016-2017.

Follow Up Items:

Deputy Supervisor Scott Tangenberg provided a general update stating the FS continues to work on the reforestation package. Decisions from the Restoration Categorical Exemption (CE) will be coming out soon. Tuolumne County has agreed to be the lead agency for the CEQA work. It was noted a lesson learned is to stay better informed about deadlines and increase inter-agency communication.

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DS Tangenberg provided an update report on the salvage of sawlog and biomass materials from the Rim Fire. The categories compared were the amount of board feet authorized for sale, what has been sold, and what has been hauled.

The Hazard Tree EA project authorized 44 MBF plus additional “add on” volume. Out of 660 MBF originally proposed in the Salvage EIS, 210 MBF was collaboratively negotiated and eventually approved as the appropriate volume to be sold. To date, between the two projects, 194 MBF overall has been removed from the Forest, with roughly 70 MBF still to be removed.

There is about 30 MBF still unsold, which includes about 5 MBF of biomass. The Double Fork salvage project will be re-advertised with the road construction work removed and the Ridge salvage project will be offered as an Integrated Resource Stewardship contract

Members noted that additional trees are dying from drought stress, further adding to the fire-caused mortality. Mr. Trott noted the biomass industry could gear up for a higher level of projects if there were five years or more of assured projects in the pipeline.

Ms. Clare Long distributed a project spreadsheet. It incorporates small price tag projects (under \$50,000) as requested by YSS. It also notes the cost of each activity and the amount of funds needed.

Potential Funding Status & Project Update Report:

HUD Resiliency Grant: It was reported the initial Phase One proposal for the HUD grant has been submitted. Included are examples of the types of projects that would be requested for funding. Specifics on projects will be included in the Phase Two application, if California is invited to advance to the next round. Notices of qualification will be out the end of June. The deadline for the final application is October with decisions out in the spring. Thirty-four states are eligible to apply and the cap on an application is \$500M. Information is available at: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2014/HUDNO_14-109

Cap & Trade Grant Support Letter: Mr. Trott provided a summary background about the funding opportunity. TRT submitted the grant on behalf of YSS and received an invitation to participate in the full application phase. The application is requesting \$1.86M targeting 68,000 tons of material from burn piles to instead be chipped and removed to be utilized for renewable energy. There are over 200 applications competing for a total of \$21M. TRT broke the application into four segments in the hopes that if full funding is not awarded one or more of the segments will be funded. The YSS support letter for the grant is to be submitted with the application.

Agreement: There was agreement to submit the letter as drafted with the caveat of waiting to hear from the Sierra Club regarding whether they will join in support.

SNC Funding: CC Buckley said the Project Workgroup is supporting the coordinated efforts between the USFS and SNC to get designated projects approved and ready for funding. The co-chairs will draft a press release when funds are awarded.

Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Funding: Mr. Nate Graveline noted this funding is on a similar track as the SNC funding. Tuolumne County approved acting as the lead agency for CEQA and set in motion the ability for this to occur in the future, as needed. CC Buckley will follow up with Mr. Daniel Richardson from Tuolumne County on this.

Finance Officer John Amodio reported the application for \$23,000 in National Forest Foundation (NFF) funds was successful. The funds can be used to support consensus work on restoration

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plans, increasing interagency planning efforts, recruitment of additional members, and educational endeavors. Work can begin in May and ends the end of 2016.

Mr. Seth Connolly (TRT) reported the volunteer program is going very well. They are providing education in schools and on-the-ground assistance in the burn area. They anticipate logging approximately 30,000 volunteer hours per annum. Visit their Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/TuolumneRiverTrust?fref=ts>

CC Buckley noted that Prop One potentially may provide funding opportunities. He asked for volunteers to assist on a joint T-Stan IRWMA/YSS subcommittee to work on understanding the opportunities and developing ideas for applying for funding. Volunteers included: CC Albrecht and Mr. Trott. It was requested that Mr. Patrick Koepele be advised of the effort.

Agreement: Members agreed to participate in the Prop One workgroup with members from the IRWMA.

Creation of AB 32 Workgroup:

FO Amodio said there is a Forest Climate Action Team reviewing the role of forest health in conjunction with the CA Air Resources Board (CARB). CARB will be developing an investment plan every three years and a new plan will be developed next year. He said there is a desire to establish a YSS workgroup and provide the workgroup with the authority to participate on behalf of YSS, understanding positions will be reviewed by the co-chairs and referred to the larger group for approval when necessary.

He shared the reduction of greenhouse gases from preventing wildfires is huge and was underestimated in the original AB32. He said forests are good at sequestering greenhouse gas. He underscored this is not about debating the merits of AB32, but rather about working to get AB32 funds for work in the green forest.

The first action of the workgroup would be to prepare a letter for CARB that explains the intent of YSS to participate in the process. The letter would also lay out concerns about the process as currently understood. This would set the stage for the workgroup to engage. Currently, members would include Mr. Steve Brink, Mr. John Amodio, and Mr. Chris Trott.

Agreement: There was agreement to form the workgroup and to authorize the process for position approval as stated above.

Reforestation Workgroup Report:

CC Albrecht provided a quick background on the meetings to date. A letter was submitted to the USFS so YSS would be on record as a commenter.

After extensive discussions, the areas of agreement identified by the YSS reforestation workgroup include that all members support effective reforestation within the Rim Fire and all agree that the YSS Reforestation Concept Paper is still valuable for consideration.

One idea that came out of the workgroup discussion is that the USFS should consider an alternative that looks at a range of options and uses various treatments as an experimental reforestation plan. For example, perhaps one third of the reforestation area would have no herbicide treatment, one third would use herbicides only where bear clover was present, and the final third would apply herbicide treatments as now proposed in the current USFS plan. If this approach was clearly monitored and assessed, it could provide comparative data to inform future reforestation efforts. This was not suggested as a YSS position, but simply as one of a range of alternatives that made sense to consider.

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CC Buckley described the positive respect shown by those participating in the reforestation committee discussions and noted that when the USFS puts out preferred alternatives later this year, there will be more to respond to by the workgroup. In the meantime, individual members of YSS will continue to discuss reforestation with Forest staff.

Discussion of GTR-220 Field trip Agenda to Experimental Forest:

CC Buckley reported that for the June 26th YSS field trip, U.S. Forest Service scientists. Eric Knapp and Malcolm North will be providing presentations about the basics of GTR-220 forest treatments and about the specific project that is being done in the Experimental Forest.

To allow for effective discussions in the forest setting, the goal is to limit participation to 35-40 people. The June 26th field trip will be primarily for YSS members and Forest Service attendees. A follow-up field trip on July 24th will be held for carefully selected political invitees and the media. YSS will send the invitations to the target audience for the July field trip.

Next YSS Steering Committee Meeting:

Friday, May 15th, 1:00-4:00 pm. Sonora Area Foundation

Next YSS General Meeting:

Friday, June 26th, TBA, Field Trip to Experimental Forest

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members

| Name | Organization | Attendance |
|------------------|---|------------|
| Jerry Jensen | American Forest Resource Council | |
| 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 | |
| Walt Kruse | Central Sierra Audubon Society | |
| Linda Millspaugh | CSAS/Alternate | |
| John Buckley | Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center | Present |
| Lindsey Meyers | CSERC/Alternate | |
| Stephanie Suess | 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 | |
| Karl Dambacher | DC/Alternate | Present |
| Michael Damaso | Merced Dirt Riders/ Stanislaus Trail Bike Association | |
| Paul Maben | Pacific Gas & Electric | |
| Kamran Rasheed | PG&E Alternate | |
| Stuart Crook | Permitee/Landowner | |

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|-----------------|---|---------|
| 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 | |
| Jim Roehl | Tuolumne Band Me-Wuk Tribal Council | |
| Willie Dutra | TBM-WTC/Alternate | |
| Sherri Brennan | Tuolumne County | |
| John Gray | TC/Alternate | |
| Mike Albrecht | Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment | Present |
| Vicki Albrecht | TuCARE/Alternate | |
| Shaun Crook | Tuolumne County Farm Bureau | |
| 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 | Present |
| Patrick Koepele | TRT/Alternate | |
| Seth Connolly | TRT/Alternate | Present |
| Jim Phelan | Tuolumne-Mariposa Resources Advisory Council | |

LIAISON MEMBERS

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Bill Haigh | Bureau of Land Management | |
| Nathan Graveline | CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife | Present |
| Joe Meyer | NPS, Yosemite National Park | |
| Linda Mazzu | NPSYNP/Alternate | |
| Scott Tangenberg | USFS Stanislaus NF | Present |
| Ann Denton | USFS/Alternate | |
| Marty Gmelin | USFS/Alternate | Present |
| Barbara Drake | USFS/Alternate | |
| Clare Long | USFS/Alternate | Present |

COLLABORATIVE STAFF

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------|---------|
| Carolyn Lott | Carlson Consulting | Present |
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OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

| Name | Organization |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Randy Hanvelt | Tuolumne County |