



## Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions Collaborative General Meeting Summary for March 20, 2015 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### **FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:**

1. Consider scheduling Mr. Meyer (YNP) and Ms. Shelly Crook and Ms. Carol Ewell (FS) for presentations later in the year.
2. Convene nominating committee for report to the SC in April.
3. DS Tangenberg to develop a “scorecard” on actuals vs. proposed ROD wood removal quantities and send to Ms. Lott for distribution.
4. DS Tangenberg to provide a full FS project list, with a Rim Fire and HUD grant subset, for April meeting.
5. Ms. Clare Long to put together a list of smaller price-tag projects needing funding and send to Ms. Lott for distribution.
6. Discuss partnering with other entities to position YSS project priorities for funding.
7. Discuss how YSS can assist the USFS with the environmental degradation document needed for the HUD proposal.
8. The co-chairs and Mr. Trott to author a YSS support letter for the Cap & Trade grant.
9. FO Amodio to report on AB32 meeting.
10. Report from the Reforestation Response Committee and from funding leads.
11. CC Buckley to obtain link for Rim Fire film.

### **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:**

- Consider SC recommendations about process moving forward
- Receive updates on Rim Fire activities

### **SUMMARY:**

#### **Welcome and Introductions:**

After self-introductions, Co-Chair Albrecht reminded the group that the YSS process is consensus and agreement with the goal of trying to reach total agreement, whenever possible. He reviewed the charter provisions for consensus, including “standing aside” and letting the group move forward. He noted process will be very important as YSS considers its position on reforestation issues.

#### **Acceptance of January Steering Committee Meeting Summary:**

**Agreement:** The members approved the meeting summary as distributed.

#### **Financial Report:**

Mr. Patrick Koepele, Tuolumne River Trust (TRT), said TRT has been acting as fiscal agent for several grants. The first National Forest Foundation (NFF) grant has been completed and was

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primarily for facilitation services. The grant from Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for the springs assessment has also been completed and funds were expended to hire Springs Stewardship Institute from Arizona. SNC still has a few invoices to process and pay. The next NFF grant is helping support Rim Fire volunteer efforts through TRT. To date, approximately \$7,500 has been expended with an additional \$4,500 expended from funds raised and contributed by Groveland Area Involved Neighbors. The Stanislaus National Forest fund for facilitation has a remaining balance of approximately \$25,000. Mr. Koepele distributed a spreadsheet summarizing the TRT fiscal activities for YSS.

Finance Officer John Amodio added TRT has submitted a grant to NFF with refinements due on Monday. This is intended to fund additional services for YSS activities and the NFF decision should be available prior to the April YSS meeting.

### **Leadership Transition Process:**

CC Albrecht said he and CC John Buckley are looking for new YSS leadership for calendar year 2016. Mr. Jim Phelan agreed to participate on the nominating committee. The process will be to recommend candidates to the SC and then present the SC recommendations to the general membership. It was clarified that leadership is on a calendar year basis and funding reflects the terms of each grant.

### **YSS Accomplishments for 2014 for Website Posting:**

CC Buckley reported that Mr. Walt Kruse had suggested putting together YSS accomplishments for 2014. Mr. Kruse supplied some ideas which were modified and added to by the co-chairs. Members can send any additional 2014 accomplishments to the co-chairs. Ms. Lott will post the list on the YSS website.

### **USFS Reports:**

Sup. Higgins said the effort with the hazard tree removal started last May and is generally completed. Salvage sales came out of the Recovery EIS which was supported by YSS. The Double Fork and Ridge sales have gone no bid, but all others were sold. If these are not successful as timber sales, the FS will pursue other avenues for material removal, hopefully for timber products and biomass.

The FS is also working on stewardship contracts for biomass removal. They have awarded one contract to remove piles that had been generated mainly from hazard tree removal. They are working on other stewardship templates that will focus on removal of biomass to accomplish removing as much fuel as possible.

The volume that came out of completed hazard tree removal projects was approximately 44,000 million board feet. The completed salvage tree efforts produced approximately 84,000 million board feet. 26 million board feet is remaining in no sale projects. Double Fork is about 17 million board feet and the FS should know if it is sold next week. The Ridge sale, as well as, other biomass removal projects will likely be packaged as stewardship projects. The other stewardship templates will include some cutting, chipping and removal.

Other kinds of work are restoration projects such as watershed, recreation facilities, and wildlife habitat that were not in the EIS. The FS is working on some proposals for this and lists are continuing to be refined. They are hosting a workshop on March 31<sup>st</sup> from 12:30-4:00pm at The Best Western to get feedback on projects.

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The FS is also working on the reforestation proposal. Sup. Higgins said the FS knew there would be disagreement especially around planting density and use of herbicides. Some initial workshops were set up with stakeholders that helped inform some of the efforts. The Interdisciplinary (ID) Team developed a proposed action recognizing the FS could not resolve all issues. The Notice of Intent (NOI) was listed in the Federal Register Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>. The FS is expecting there will be alternatives developed. A workshop will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup>, at the OES building on Stryker Court. An Open House will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> at OES, as well. Some environmental analysis has started. Some of that work has fed into the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant process. The state has the lead on the HUD grant competition.

The initial reforestation proposal is to treat 40,000 acres in the Rim Fire area with 30,000 for planting and is variable across the landscape taking into account fire hazards, proximity to private land, etc. It also includes about 12,000 acres of treatment of existing plantations that survived the fire. Some herbicide use is included.

A member voiced concern about the lack of water sources to assist with efforts within the forest. Sup. Higgins said there are some water development projects.

Another member inquired about the inclusion of permanent fuel breaks within the FS efforts. Sup. Higgins said the fuel break concept is in the tree planting design. The member continued saying that mapping fuel breaks would be very helpful in the case of another fire.

Sup. Higgins concluded by stating that the original reforestation proposal talks about reforestation over a ten-year period. However, Mr. Randy Moore, Regional Forester for Region 5, has challenged Sup. Higgins to complete the work within 2-3 years.

### **Funding Possibilities for Projects & Programs**

#### *Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program*

CC Buckley said SNC staff have been leaders in trying to find funding for forest management. He reported on a meeting in Sacramento focused on how to move beyond “talk” about pace and scale into really doing something in forest management. CC Buckley was part of panel and represented YSS. Many state agencies were represented and some shared their commitment to identifying funds for the effort. For example, Fish & Wildlife referenced Prop One for wildlife habitat that could go for forest management. Mr. Moore gave a compelling speech saying the FS has multiple goals and has not been able to move a lot of them forward because of lack of funds. He said he is committing to work with the agencies to take their resources and combine them with FS resources to do a broad sweep of what is needed. Mr. Jim Branham, SNC, said YSS is a model of what SNC hopes to see accomplished across the region.

#### *Prop One*

It was noted a significant portion of these funds are designated for urban areas. CC Buckley said YSS is not set up at this time to apply for these funds as there is not the fiscal capacity to provide the 25% - 50% local match or to front costs and wait for state reimbursement. The challenge is how to position YSS for big pots of money. One thought is to partner with other groups such as the T-Stan IRWM and/or the county. A more thorough discussion of how YSS can partner with other entities is needed.

#### *HUD Recovery and Resiliency Competitive Grant-YSS Role*

CC Buckley explained this grant is a national competition for HUD funds with each qualified state having the opportunity to submit one proposal. The state is coordinating with the county on a Rim Fire-focused application. There is approximately \$1 billion for the nation. The Rim Fire

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was the most devastating event nationally during the timeframe which is the focus of the grant. The initial “concept” proposal determines whether the applicant is asked to submit a full proposal with a final determination in 2016. CC Buckley asked that the FS provide YSS with the general ideas to be included in the proposal.

Ms. Barbara Drake said Phase One of the application looked at infrastructure, so it was mostly roads and recreation focused. Ms. Claire Long said it is important to note that for these types of HUD grants, this is the first proposal focused on a catastrophic fire and there is a desire for this application to be a model for others in the future. Ms. Sherri Brennan said the state is committed to meeting with local representatives once a month. The county wants to look at resiliency for the entire watershed.

It was noted that YSS drew a lot of positive attention at the HUD grant stakeholder meeting. YSS has done what has not been done so well elsewhere.

Ms. Drake said she was charged with preparing an environmental degradation document for the state. She said her comments broadly fell into water and soil categories and related economic impacts. Wildlife habitat loss, soil erosion, range management private and public, timber economic value loss, removal of biomass, and reforestation, were also included. The document is found at: [http://www.hcd.ca.gov/NationalDisaster/docs/USFS-Environmental\\_Degradation\\_Summary\\_Report.pdf](http://www.hcd.ca.gov/NationalDisaster/docs/USFS-Environmental_Degradation_Summary_Report.pdf) Ms. Drake said YSS members need to assist in filling in other information needed in the document. CC Buckley suggested adding this topic to the next SC agenda.

### *Cap & Trade Funding Status & Next Steps*

Mr. Chris Trott said Cal FIRE has funds to support reduction of greenhouse gases and/or efforts that cause more carbon to be contained in trees. YSS is interested in areas disturbed by wildfire. Part of reducing fuels prior to planting is considered site preparation. A proposal was developed by TRT, on behalf of YSS. The proposal included 68,000 tons of removal of materials to get a greenhouse gas offset from biomass energy supplanting fossil fuel energy. On February 20th, a letter was received by TRT requesting submission of a full grant application. There were over 500 initial applications. There are approximately 200 full applications invited to compete for \$21 million.

Mr. Trott asked YSS for a support letter to be included in the application which is due April 30<sup>th</sup>. It was noted YSS has already voiced support for this application. The co-chairs will work with Mr. Trott on a letter of support from YSS. Awardees should be notified in June. This will be a pot of dollars that is available for grant requests each year.

FO Amodio stated he will be attending an AB32 meeting and would like to be agendaized to report on it during the SC meeting.

### *Sierra Nevada Conservancy, WCB Project Updates & TC Role in CEQA*

Mr. Nate Graveline said he is working on a grant of approximately \$1.5 million with the WCB and has a project list that includes projects for which most the NEPA work is done. He is going before the Board of Supervisors on April 7<sup>th</sup> to request that the county be the lead agency. The CEQA part should be done by July. The goal is to get the application in for the WCB August meeting. Mr. Jim Maddox added the Fish & Wildlife Preservation Fund did approve use of funds to pay for CEQA.

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### SNC

Mr. Koepele said they have split the projects within the grant which was originally an opportunity for just under \$1 million. There are currently three projects, one to do planning, CEQA, and engineering, one to do hand-scale project implementation and one to do heavy equipment projects. NEPA will be done at the end of March.

### **Update on Rim Other Rim Fire Matters:**

#### *Litigation*

CC Buckley said YSS is an intervenor. There will be a hearing in May which is scheduled for one hour. While there is no opportunity for observers to speak, and there is no guarantee there will be seating in the courtroom, members can attend the hearing. Details are available through CC Buckley. The decision should be out in June or July. County legal staff time is being donated and forestry associations are paying the case attorneys.

#### *Reforestation Response Committee (RRC)*

CC Albrecht reflected on the level of effort expended for YSS to come to agreement on the salvage effort. He said the reforestation effort will be more difficult and it is actually more important. A committee is being formed to work offline on this. Volunteers at the meeting included: Co-Chair Albrecht, Co-Chair Buckley, Mr. Jerry Jensen, Mr. Jim Maddox, Mr. Jim Phelan, Mr. Jon Sturtevant, Mr. Shaun Crook, and Mr. Rick Delvin. A letter will be submitted to the FS, prior to the April 13<sup>th</sup> deadline, stating the intent of YSS to comment with detailed comments to follow. Recommendations from the RRC will be brought to the April SC meeting.

### **Experimental Forest Field Sessions:**

CC Buckley said Dr. Malcolm North and Dr. Eric Knapp will be providing a presentation to YSS during the field trip to the experimental forest on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Details will be forthcoming. A second field trip for invited guests will be held July 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Guest Speaker**

Mr. Koepele arranged for Mr. Brett Storey, Placer County Biomass Program Manager, to present "Biomass Program Structure & Public/Private Economics for a Facility." The thrust of the presentation was to explain why and how Placer County is working towards development and sale of biomass products off the forests, in conjunction with private industry. For further information, contact Mr. Storey at 530-745-3011 or [bstorey@placer.ca.gov](mailto:bstorey@placer.ca.gov). His presentation is available by contacting Ms. Lott at [carolynlott@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolynlott@sbcglobal.net).

### **Other:**

CC Albrecht noted, in the future, all YSS meetings will be held from 1:00-4:00 pm. CC Buckley said he will obtain the new link for the Rim Fire film that includes YSS.

### **Next YSS Steering Committee Meeting:**

Friday, April 17th, 1:00-4:00 pm. Sonora Area Foundation

### **Next YSS General Meeting:**

Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, TBA, Field Trip to Experimental Forest

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### MEETING ATTENDANCE

#### Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Jerry Jensen	American Forest Resource Council	Present
Jerry Fouts	American Motorcyclist Association, District 36	Present
Dave Pickett	AMA36/Alternate	
Todd Miller	Blue Mountain Minerals	
Jeff Redoutey	BMM/Alternate	
John Romena	Buena Vista Biomass Power	Present
Steve Brink	CA Forestry Association	
Walt Kruse	Central Sierra Audubon Society	Present
Linda Millsbaugh	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	Present
Phil Coffin	FBTC/Alternate	
Jim Dambacher	Dambacher Construction/Landowner	Present
Karl Dambacher	DC/Alternate	
Michael Damaso	Merced Dirt Riders/ Stanislaus Trail Bike Association	Present
Paul Maben	Pacific Gas & Electric	
Kamran Rasheed	PG&E Alternate	
Stuart Crook	Permitee/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	
Rick Delvin	SCTG/Alternate	Present
Brian Wayland	Sierra Pacific Industries	Present
	SPI Alternate	
Allen Johnson	SouthWest InterFace Team	Present
Kelly Bearden	SWIFT Alternate	
Jim Roehl	Tuolumne Band Me-Wuk Tribal Council	Present
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	

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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	Present
Seth Connolly	TRT/Alternate	
Jim Phelan	Tuolumne-Mariposa Resources Advisory Council	Present

### 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	
Ann Denton	USFS/Alternate	Present
Marty Gmelin	USFS/Alternate	Present
Barbara Drake	USFS/Alternate	Present

### COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Carolyn Lott	Carlson Consulting	Present
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### OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

Name	Organization
FS Jeanne Higgins	USFS
Jim Junette	USFS
Ruanne Mikkelsen	