



## Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions Collaborative Steering Committee Meeting Summary for January 23, 2015 1:00 p.m-4:00 p.m.

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

1. Consider scheduling Mr. Joe Meyer from Yosemite Park and Ms. Shelly Crook and Ms. Carol Ewell from the Forest Service for presentations later in the year.
2. Co-chairs to organize nominating committee for vice-chair position.
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 subset, by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. Ms. Clare Long to put together a list of smaller price-tag projects needing funding and send to Ms. Lott for distribution.
6. Assuming requested to submit a full Cap & Trade proposal, a YSS letter of support will be circulated to verify use of individual member organization's names within the letter.
7. Ms. Lott to send link to GTR-220.
8. CC Buckley to determine availability of speakers for experimental forest field trip.
9. Mr. Brink to develop a summary of his six key federal activities and send to Ms. Lott for distribution.

### **AGENDIZE FOR FUTURE MEETING:**

1. Green forest activities discussion to be scheduled mid-year 2015
2. Discuss Project Workgroup FS project prioritization recommendations
3. Brainstorm and describe additional projects for consideration

### **MEETING GOALS:**

- Receive updates on projects and funding opportunities
- Discuss the topic of project prioritization
- Discuss YSS leadership

### **SUMMARY:**

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions:**

Chair Mike Albrecht welcomed the group and asked for self-introductions. He reminded members of the purpose of YSS - identifying, prioritizing and helping to find funding for forest projects. He said YSS intends to move beyond the Rim Fire burn area this year. He noted YSS has a good reputation and is being contacted by groups, even nationally, for assistance with establishing successful collaboratives.

#### **II. YSS Process Items:**

Meeting Summary from November, 2014

A member requested summaries be distributed more quickly.

**Agreement:** The summary was approved as emailed.

#### **Proposed Leadership Structure and Transition**

Chair Albrecht introduced the proposal. The recommendation included moving Vice-Chair Buckley into a co-chair position, appointing a vice-chair mid-year who would work closely with the current co-chairs. An additional vice-chair would be appointed towards the end of the calendar year with the intention that the vice-chairs would transition into co-chair roles beginning 2016. Co-chairs Albrecht and Buckley would continue to be involved and offer assistance a

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past co-chairs. Chair Albrecht asked for two members to volunteer to serve on the nominating committee along with the co-chairs. It was noted Tuolumne River Trust, as the financial conduit, would continue to fill the finance officer role through John Amodio. Co-chair Albrecht asked that members interested in being considered for vice-chair notify YSS leadership.

**Agreement:** Members accepted the leadership process as proposed.

### **III. Follow-up Items:**

#### Legal Update

Co-chair Buckley noted the Ninth Circuit issued a favorable opinion. The court granted the motion for filing an amicus brief by Tuolumne County and other partnering counties. This week's order does not decide the merits of the appeal and there is a hearing anticipated to be scheduled in March or April. Unless there is a court decision to curtail salvage logging, logging will continue.

#### General USFS Updates

District Ranger Jim Junette reported all hazard tree removal is done except for Highway 120 which should be done the end of next month. Salvage sales are anticipated to be complete by the end of summer 2015 understanding Double Fork and Ridge have not yet sold.

Mr. Steve Brink asked for a "one-pager" that lists all sales, when they sold, how much volume was produced, and what has been accomplished, with a paragraph that sums up how much of the ROD actually was completed. Deputy Supervisor Tangenberg said he would develop the scorecard. It was noted what is not accomplished through sales will have to be evaluated for stewardship contracts. This is starting next week with a pre-bid tour for biomass removal.

#### Reforestation Update

Mr. Marty Gmelin said the FS interdisciplinary (ID) team made a breakthrough in trying to figure out the clumping open-space planting plan to include lower slope transition to higher slope. It was noted there are whole blankets of mainly Ponderosa Pines that are dying from bark beetles and lack of water. In the burn units there are trees that survived the fire and now there is a lot of fade. It was noted some of these dying/dead trees may be removed through general salvage sales as contractors have three years to complete the work.

DS Tangenberg said the FS is going to enter scoping and NEPA processes and have workshops afterwards. If there are significant comments on the scoping, the FS will issue alternatives. Monitoring will be built into this. The FS can do tree planting up to 4,200 acres with a CE for planting for next spring. The trade-off is that acres covered in a CE cannot be treated with herbicides. It was noted there are plans to release acres that have come back through natural regeneration.

#### Volunteer Efforts

Ms. Clare Long highlighted a potential intern project on forestry and fire academy work with Columbia College and forest adoption projects with Groveland and Jamestown schools. Mr. Seth Connolly reported he is working with Clif Bar on tree planting on a long-term basis. He believes volunteer management is getting close to identifying about 20,000 volunteer hours for the year. They are working with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) on a draft \$25 million plan. They are also working through NFF to secure volunteer efforts through PG&E. Ms. Long will put together a list of smaller price tag needs.

A concern was raised about the source of funding and staffing for developing the new Forest Plan as it may compete with Rim Fire recovery efforts.

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### **IV. Potential Funding Status & Project Update Report:**

#### **Natural Disaster Funding**

CC Buckley described the opportunity stating the Rim Fire disaster was chosen by the governor's office for the state's application to the federal government. There is a possibility of being awarded millions of dollars. It is a national competition with a first cut phase and then full application phase. Tuolumne County is the applicant. Proposed activities for funding must fall into one of the 84 categories, but there have been strong indications that there will be an effort to fund whatever is requested if the application is one of those selected. The funds must be obligated, i.e. under contract, within a two-year period. It was stressed that this is a one-time opportunity for the FS to acquire very substantial funding.

It was requested that the SC authorize the co-chairs, Mr. Patrick Koepfle, Mr. Chris Trott, and Mr. Nate Graveline to collaborate on the application on behalf of YSS. Relevant parts of the application will be brought back to YSS for action. Ms. Barbara Drake, Ms. Long, and DS Tangenberg were identified as the FS "strike team."

**Agreement:** There was agreement to authorize the designated YSS participants to collaborate on the application as described.

#### **Cap & Trade**

CC Albrecht reported for Mr. Trott, that in conjunction with TRT a \$1.8 million grant for biomass was submitted. If asked to submit the full application, YSS will be asked to provide a letter of support. The concept of the project has previously been endorsed by YSS. However, there will be a process for member organizations to opt out of having their organization's name listed within the letter of support.

#### **Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) & Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Funding**

CC Buckley said Ms. Mary Moore and Ms. Tracy Weddle have been putting forth an especially effective effort on coordinating and packaging the projects in a way that best addresses the focus of SNC and WCB requirements. D.R. Junette, Mr. Jim Maddox, Mr. Graveline, and Mr. Koepfle are meeting regularly to help with the SNC effort. SNC is willing to take on shepherding and funding the CEQA issue. Mr. Graveline noted the big issue with WCB funding is CEQA. They are going to ask the county to be the lead agency and hope the Fish and Wildlife Preservation Fund may be the source for funding CEQA activities. He noted they are on track to put in a WCB application in May.

### **V. Restoration Workgroup Report:**

Mr. Brink said the next task will be the 2016 interior appropriations for the FS. They will be advocating for an increase in forest products and fuels reduction funding.

### **VI. Project Prioritization:**

CC Buckley noted YSS has worked closely on project packages to date and have been helping prioritize and enhance projects. But to move beyond that, in order to collectively review projects for YSS prioritization, YSS needs an updated FS project list that includes a subset of Rim Fire projects. YSS also needs to brainstorm whether there are priority projects that are not currently proposed by the FS such as addressing project needs in the green forest.

**Agreement:** DS Tangenberg will provide the project list by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The project workgroup will review the list and provide recommendations to YSS. A new project brainstorming session will be agendized.

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### **VII. Group Education:**

CC Albrecht asked that all members become familiar with the basic forest management strategies in the USFS science document GTR-220. Ms. Lott will distribute the link. He noted there is a desire to arrange a field trip to the experimental forest. CC Buckley will determine the availability of Dr. Malcolm North and Dr. Eric Knapp.

**Agreement:** YSS will work to potentially host two field trips to the experimental forest, one for members and one for individuals who may be influential in policy and funding activities

### **VIII. Other:**

Mr. Brink provided an update on the six federal legislative activities he is working on. They are: appropriations, ability to do landscape scale projects, HR167, NEPA streamlining, emergency NEPA exemption, and Secure Rural Schools. He will develop a summary and send it to Ms. Lott for distribution. It was also announced GTR-247 is available online.

### **There will be no YSS General Meeting in February**

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

Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00-4:00

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

### Members

Name	Organization	Attendance
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	
Steve Brink	CA Forestry Association	Present
Walt Kruse	Central Sierra Audubon Society	Present
Linda Millspaugh	CSAS/Alternate	
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present
Lindsey Meyers	CSERC/Alternate	
Chris Trott	CT Bioenergy Consulting	
Jody Trott	CTBC/Alternate	
Scott Gelfand	Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp	
Phil Coffin	FBTC/Alternate	
Karl Dambacher	DC Alternate	
Jim Dambacher	James R. Dambacher Construction	
Michael Damaso	Merced Dirt Riders/ Stanislaus Trail Bike Association	
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	

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Brain Wayland	Sierra Pacific Industries	
Allen Johnson	SouthWest InterFace Team	
Kelly Bearden	SWIFT 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	
Stuart Crook	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	
Jim Phelan	Tuolumne County Sportsmen Club	Present
Jon Sturtevant	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	
Rick Delvin	TCSC/Alternate	
John Amodio	Tuolumne River Trust	
Patrick Koepele	TRT/Alternate	
Jim Roehl	Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council	
Willie Dutra	TMWTC/Alternate	
Jim Maddox	Yosemite Deer Herd Advisory Council	Present

### LIAISON MEMBERS

Bill Haigh	Bureau of Land Management	Present
Nathan Graveline	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Present
Greg Gerstenberg	CDFW/Alternate	
Joe Meyer	NPS, Yosemite National Park	
Linda Mazzu	NPSYNP/Alternate	
Julie Bear	Sierra Nevada Conservancy	
Chris Dallas	SNC/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	Carlton Consulting	Present
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### OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

Name	Organization
Seth Connolly	Tuolumne River Trust
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne County
Jim Junette	USFS
Jerry Fouts	American Motorcyclist Association
Steve Brink	California Forestry Association