



**Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions
Collaborative General Membership
Meeting Summary
January 21, 2022
Video Conference**

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

(The following were brought up as possible options for field trips if the pandemic situation improves sufficiently and field trip opportunities end up being timely.)

1. Invite media to visit some project sites for purpose of raising public awareness about projects that have been funded by SNC & WCB projects and perhaps visit a MSA project site.
2. Schedule a YSS field trip to see YSS/USFS work being done at Cedar Ridge.
3. Consider if there is sufficient interest for organizing a YSS field trip to see the SNC and WCB project sites.

MEETING GOALS:

- Overview of SPI projects
- Update on funding and project status
- Cedar Ridge project presentation

SUMMARY:

Meeting Opening, Welcome, Pledge and Introductions:

Chair Brian Wayland opened the Zoom video meeting and roll was taken.

Project Update:

Mr. Byron Krempf reported they are working on contract preparation for 2022 field work with Tuolumne County. For the Rim Fire landscape, they are still working on recovery. 2,300 acres of on-the-ground planting preparation is being done for trees that will go in the ground in 2023. The Jawbone Ridge Forest Health Project will work on decreasing wildfire risk and increasing deer habitat. The Jawbone Ridge Reforestation Project includes approximately 70,000 trees that will go in the ground this year.

Fuel Management units are shown on the SERAL map, and they are waiting for results of the EIS. They have \$5M in funding for about 4,700 acres of PODs 1-5.

Crews are working on handlines for prescribed burn units in the Strawberry area. They are burning piles but are still trying to staff up. Cold Springs is an upcoming project and like Cedar Ridge Project is for decreasing fire risk. See more here:



Project Status Table
1.19.2022.pdf

Potential Funding:

Mr. Patrick Koepele said funding for Murphy Ranch will go directly to The Tribe. An application for a Wildfire and Forest Resiliency Grant from SNC for \$5M for additional fuelbreaks in the SERAL footprint will be submitted. They are also applying for a Cal FIRE Forest Health Grant for \$5M likely for additional Rim Project work.

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There is interest in submitting a Cal FIRE **Wood Forest Wood**?? Product Grant for \$500,000 for workforce development. TRT recently sent out a survey to help better understand workforce needs and reasons for the shortage. Mr. Aaron Smith, SPI, would like to coordinate with these efforts.

Mr. Koepele is considering a CA Fish and Wildlife Prop One grant application. Ms. Dore Bietz, on behalf of county is applying for fire prevention money for private land.

Mr. Scott Gefland would like to connect camp staff with potential forestry-connected career opportunities. The camp has roads and trails they would like cleared.

Ms. Diana Beasley, Tuolumne Band, would like to do work in the Turnback Creek Watershed on about 30 acres for fire safety.

Mr. John Amodio recapped a meeting with Mr. Patrick Wright focused on how the state could better enable collaboratives to get work done on the ground. He has been working with the Sierra Institute, as well. Through a project called SCALE, they have been working on an implementation blueprint for a comprehensive look at how the state could better coordinate among agencies and share lessons learned by YSS.

HUD 2022 Update:

Mr. Michael Jow said they are making good progress on the \$70M to do recovery work in the Rim Fire. The \$29M for Forest and Watershed Health portion has completed fuels reduction prep on about 1,200 acres and in about 6 weeks will fund planting of 1.4 M seedlings over 4,000 acres. 1,800 acres of that area will be replanting areas where drought killed most planted tree seedlings last year. The FS has additional seedlings for the Berkeley Tuolumne Camp. They then will move into herbicide release for around the seedlings. They are anticipating one final planting to be done in 2023.

The range component will finish fencing the end of June. Cottonwood Water Source project will construct a well, hopefully by late summer. They will put up fencing to keep cattle out of the creek.

Noxious weed treatments will continue for another year. There are about 750 acres of FS and BLM lands with a network of fuelbreaks constructed in the western part of the forest around Mt. Provo and south and then along The Basin and down Wagner and Paper Cabin Ridges. For more information see: https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14325/HCD-01_NDRC-Fuel-Breaks-EA_03172020_V3-combinedc

Mr. Jow reported on the Biomass Utilization Facilities. Tuolumne Bioenergy is a pellet manufacturing company with a proposed project. They are in the comment period for the CEQA and NEPA and comments are due February 4th. The plant will be able to accommodate up to 44,000 bone dry tons. The two community resiliency centers being built for Tuolumne County have a September completion date.

SPI Project Overview Presentation:

Mr. Aaron Smith, the Sonora District Manager for SPI, presented. The Sonora District is in the Central Sierra Region. There are eleven districts in California. The Sonora District is about 100,000 acres and is the southernmost district and is in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. SPI sustainably produces forest products that people use every day.

SPI is not scheduled to log green trees on their local timberlands this year because of the significant amount of salvage wood coming from the Caldor Fire. They have been actively

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developing and maintaining fuelbreaks. The existing fuelbreaks constitute 91 miles. The focus is on Wildland Urban Interface lands.

Cedar Ridge Presentation:

Mr. Ben Campbell said this project includes portions of Big Hill. The project treats 2,300 acres for fuel reduction using a variety of treatment methods. They expect to complete the work around October 31, 2022. Fire modeling software was used to determine the level of fire hazard potential. It combines likelihood of fire risk with what is present on the ground. 10% of the project has been completed. Each of the units allow for mastication and/or handwork. Currently it is about 50/50. The FS is responsible for burning the piles. The presentation can be found at: <https://yosemitestanislausolutions.com/meetings-events/collaborative-documents/>

USFS Update:

Mr. John Buckley stated the Leadership Team has been working with the FS on SERAL for the last two years. If any YSS member doesn't support or opposes the SERAL Project that YSS has helped design, they should let Mr. Wayland or Mr. Buckley know. Comments about the different alternatives that people think would make the project better should be submitted to the FS, and not to the Leadership Team.

Mr. Jow repeated the timeline for the SERAL project. More information can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56500>

Next YSS General Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled YSS General Membership meeting will be Friday, March 18, 2022.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members

Name	Organization	Attendance
Jerry Jensen	American Forest Resource Council	Present
Jerry Fouts	American Motorcyclist Association, District 36	
Dave Pickett	AMA36/Alternate	
Randy Hanvelt	Associated California Loggers	Present
Jeff Redoutey	Blue Mountain Minerals	
Steve Brink	CA Forestry Association	
Walt Kruse	Central Sierra Audubon Society	Present
Linda Millspaugh	CSAS/Alternate	
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present
Catilyn Rich	CSERC/Alternate	Present
Joanna Prtillo-HSU	Chicken Ranch Rancheria of MeWuk Indians	Present
Chris Trott	CT Bioenergy Consulting	Present
Jody Trott	CTBC/Alternate	
Jim Dambacher	Dambacher Construction/Landowner	
Karl Dambacher	DC/Alternate	
James Maddox	Fish and Game Preservation Commission	
Scott Gelfand	Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp	Present
Phil Coffin	FBTC/Alternate	

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Michael Beckman	Friends of Pinecrest	
Douglas Wiele	FP/Alternate	
Dave Holland	FP/Alternate	
Greg Norton	Golden State Natural Resources	
Kevin Cann	GSNR/Alternate	
Dwight Follien	Groveland Trail Heads	
Dusty Vaughn	GTH/Alternate	
Ethan Billigmeier	Hetch Hetchy Water and Power	
Michael Esposito	HHWP/Alternate	
Glenn Gottschall	Highway 108 Fire Safe Council	
Karen Caldwell	H108FSC/Alternate	
Jeb Brooks	Left Coast Land Clearing	Present
Sasha Farkas	LCLC/Alternate	
Mike Damaso	Merced Dirt Riders/Stanislaus Trail Bike Association, 4x4 in Motion	
Jim Phelan	Mule Deer Foundation	
Dave Evans	Natural Resources Conservation Service	
Matthew Waverly	Pacific Gas & Electric	
Rick Carter	Pacific Ultra Power Chinese Station	
Dennis Serpa	PUPCS/Alternate	
Rees Warne	Sierra Outdoor School – Clovis Unified School District	Present
Brandy Lively	SOS – CUSD/Alternate	
Brian Wayland	Sierra Pacific Industries	Present
Hannah Grabowski	SPI Alternate	Present
Diana Beasley	Tuolumne Band Me-Wuk Tribal Council	Present
Eric Juncker	TBM-WTC/Alternate	
David Goldemberg	Tuolumne County	
Kathleen Haff	TC/Alternate	
Mike Albrecht	Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment	Present
Vicki Albrecht	TuCARE/Alternate	
Lindsay Mattos	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	
Patrick Koepele	Tuolumne River Trust	Present
John Amodio	TRT/Alternate	Present
Byron Krempf	TRT/Alternate	Present

LIASON MEMBERS

	Bureau of Land Management	
Mark Abraham	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	
Nathan Graveline	CDFW/Alternate	
Greg Gerstenberg	CDFW/Alternate	
Joe Meyer	NPS, Yosemite National Park	
Rob Grasso	NPSYNP/Alternate	
Michael Pickard	Sierra Nevada Conservancy	Present
Jason Kuiken	USFS Stanislaus NF	
Beth Martinez	USFS/Alternate	

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Michael Jow	USFS/Alternate	Present
Jim Junette	USFS/Alternate	
Sarah LaPlante	USFS/Alternate	
Ray Cablayan	USFS/Alternate	

PARTICIPANTS

Keith Martin	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	
Kevin Rice	TGSC	

COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Carolyn Lott	Carlson Consulting	Present
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OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

Name	Organization
Liz Peterson	Tuolumne County
Mervet Mitri	"
Aaron Smith	SPI
Sarah Bolnik	Golden State Natural Resources
Julia Stephens	TRT
Matt Andrews	SPI
Haily Gleason	TRT
Emma Burt	TRT
Ben Campbell	TRT