



**Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions
Collaborative General Membership
Meeting Summary
January 17, 2025
Forest Supervisor's Conference Rooms**

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- Prescribed Fire and Quarry Fire Field Trip
- Ackerson Meadow
- Presentation by CHIPS
- Burnbot Presentation
- Beaver Restoration Presentation

MEETING GOALS:

- Presentation on Forestry Challenge
- MSA Video Premier
- Presentation on Groveland RCD Project

SUMMARY:

Meeting Opening, Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Liz Peterson opened the meeting and asked for introductions. Mr. John Amodio was thanked for his dedication to YSS serving as the collaborative's Sacramento liaison.

2024 Year in Review:

Mr. Ben Campbell from Tuolumne River Trust, and Ms. Caitlin Henry from Tuolumne County, provided a presentation. Mr. Campbell said much work was done in preparation for implementation. The presentation is available here: [MSA Accomplishments 2024](#)

2025 Forestry Challenge Championship:

Ms. Diana Dealy Neill provided a presentation. She began by describing the purpose of Forestry Challenge. She said the goals of Forestry Challenge are to use skills in the field, interact with resource professionals, and provide an opportunity for diverse groups to enjoy the forest. 576 students participated in the fall of 2024. They utilized 200 volunteers. Thirty teams qualified to participate in the championship which is held at Pinecrest. More information about Forestry Challenge is available here: [Forestry Challenge Website](#) Ms. Neill's presentation is available here: [Forestry Challenge Presentation](#)

MSA Video:

Ms. Henry said the county enlisted professionals to create a video about the MSA to increase public awareness. Today a teaser clip was shown. A full 20-minute video is being worked on and has more information about YSS than the teaser.

Pine Mountain Lake Fuels Reduction Project:

Ms. Lindsay Mattos from the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District spoke about this project. The project stretches from the airport to Highway 120. It was designed to connect existing fuel work and covers approximately 700 acres. Treatment should be completed in 2026. The property belongs to the Mother Lode Land Trust. The goal is to bring back cattle to keep vegetation down. The project was funded by Cal FIRE.

Summary: Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions General Meeting

USFS Updates:

Mr. Brian McCory spoke about SERAL 1.0. He said in 2024 5,000+ acres of mechanical work and 4,000 acres of prescribed fire were completed on the landscape. The G-Z project is on either side of Beardsley Reservoir and is underway. Bumblebee and Punch Bowl projects are going out to bid this year. The forest has additional federal funding coming.

SERAL 2.0 has two decisions signed. The first decision is for fuelbreaks, thinning, and prescribed fire. SERAL 2.0 along with SERAL 1.0 encompasses the entire Wildfire Landscape Strategy area. Project implementation within the first Record of Decision (ROD) should start in about 9 months. They are gaining capacity through the partnership with Tuolumne County and Tuolumne River Trust.

A relatively new company called Burnbot will do work within the 30,000-acre G-Z project. Burnbot uses innovative technology to implement projects. The company is centered in Silicon Valley.

The Hazard Tree Management Project is designed to address level 3, 4, and 5 roads and high use level 2 roads and recreation areas. The FS should sign the decision in the next couple of weeks. This will replace the piecemeal way of addressing hazard trees.

The Mountain Biking Project will encompass a review of approximately 300 miles of non-motorized trails in the Forest. The Forest will be designating mountain biking and e-bike trails and analyzing about 200 miles of unauthorized trails to consider whether to approve the trail or to modify, re-route, or close each trail. They will be designating motorized trails for e-bike use. They also will include signage and education. About 50 miles of rapid assessments have been completed. They are working with IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association).

Sacramento Update:

John Amodio presented lessons learned by YSS in Sacramento at the request of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and the governor's office. This will be put into publication. The focal point is to implement desired acreage sustained funding is imperative rather than up and down funding. He took the lessons learned to Senator John Laird who created the SNC. They took the ideas to a group of 15 people who are top in the state. This group was able to identify six different possible revenue streams. However, none are politically feasible currently. Some of these leaders are beginning a public awareness campaign. The Resources Legacy Fund hired two experts to do a deeper dive. They have completed their studies. Mr. Amodio concluded by stating if Sacramento is serious about reducing health risks and the safety of property and life, much more money must be invested.

Next YSS Meeting: March 21, 2025

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members

Name	Organization	Attendance
Jerry Fouts	American Motorcyclist Association, District 36	Present
Dave Pickett	AMA36/Alternate	
Mike Albrecht	Associated California Loggers	Present
Vicki Albrecht	ACL	
John Sulkowski	Blue Mountain Minerals	

Summary: Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions General Meeting

Lauren Mitchell	BMM/Alternate	
Steve Brink	CA Forestry Assoc., American Forest Resource Council	Present
Walt Kruse	Central Sierra Audubon Society	
Linda Millspaugh	CSAS/Alternate	
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present
Stan Dodson	CSERC/Alternate	Present
Joanna Portillo-HSU	Chicken Ranch Rancheria of MeWuk Indians	
Chris Trott	CT Bioenergy Consulting	Present
Jody Trott	CTBC/Alternate	
James Maddox	Fish and Game Preservation Commission	Present
Jerry Jensen	Forest Landowners of California	Present
Diedre Bryant	FLOC/Alternate	
Scott Gelfand	Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp	
Phil Coffin	FBTC/Alternate	
Gary Donnell	Friends of Pinecrest	
Dave Holland	FP/Alternate	
Terrance Rodgers	Golden State Natural Resources	
Sarah Bolnik	GSNR/Alternate	
Dwight Follien	Groveland Trail Heads	
Dusty Vaughn	GTH/Alternate	
Ethan Billigmeier	Hetch Hetchy Water and Power	
Joy Meller	HHWP/Alternate	Present
Jim Dambacher	James R. Dambacher Construction/Landowner	Present
Jon Donais	Jamestown Energy	Present
Dennis Serpa	JE/Alternate	Present
Jeb Brooks	Mason, Bruce, & Girard Natural Resource Consultants	
Chris Shull	MB&G NRC/Alternate	Present
Rubie Teffeteller	MB&G NRC/Alternate	
Mike Damaso	Merced Dirt Riders/Stanislaus Trail Bike Association, 4x4 in Motion	Present
Jim Phelan	Mule Deer Foundation	Present
Sara Vaughn	National Forest Foundation	
Dave Evans	Natural Resources Conservation Service	
Matthew Waverly	Pacific Gas & Electric	
Wes Whited	PGE/Alternate	Present
Rees Warne	Sierra Outdoor School – Clovis Unified School District	Present
	SOS – CUSD/Alternate	
Hannah Grabowski	Sierra Pacific Industries	Present
Rian Jurado	SPI/Alternate	
Richard Gaiser	SNF Grazing Permittees Association	Present
Robert Wells	TBM-WTC/Alternate	
Etienne Patenaude	Tuolumne BioEnergy	
Jaron Brandon	Tuolumne County	Present
Anaiah Kirk	TC/Alternate	

Summary: Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions General Meeting

Liz Peterson	TC/Alternate	Present
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment	Present
Shaun Crook	Tuolumne County Farm Bureau	
Glenn Gottschall	Tuolumne County Fire Safe Council	
Karen Caldwell	TCFSC/Alternate	
Matthew Lun	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	
Lindsay Mattos	TCRCD/Alternate	Present
Diana Beasley	Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council	
Laura Hiler	TMWTC/Alternate	Present
Patrick Koepele	Tuolumne River Trust	Present
John Amodio	TRT/Alternate	Present
Ben Campbell	TRT/Alternate	Present
Kristina Rylands	Upper Merced River Watershed Council	
	UMRWC/Alternate	
Brain Wayland	Wayland Forestry	Present

LIASON MEMBERS

Jerry Martinez	Bureau of Land Management	
Jason Schroeder	BLM/Alternate	
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	Present
Beth Martinez	USFS/Alternate	Present
Michael Jow	USFS/Alternate	Present
Jim Junette	USFS/Alternate	Present
Brian McCrory	USFS/Alternate	Present
Marcie Easter	USFS/Alternate	Present
Ray Cablayan	USFS/Alternate	
Jose Hernandez	USFS/Alternate	
Shawn Winstead	USFS/Alternate	
Thomas Meyer	USFS/Alternate	Present
Pat Laeng	USFS/Alternate	Present

PARTICIPANTS

Keith Martin	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	Present
Joanne McCullough	TGSC/Alternate	

COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Carolyn Lott	Executive Director	Present
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Summary: Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions General Meeting

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

Name	Organization
Caitlin Henry	Tuolumne County
Sean Hembre	"
Corinne Hume	"
Sherri Brennan	Association of CA Loggers
Beck Johnson	USFS
Todd Newburger	"
Diane Dealy-Neill	Forestry Challengente
Julia Stephens	Tuolumne River Trust
Betsy Kais	BurnBot
Anukool Lalchin	"