



**Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions
Collaborative General Membership
Meeting Summary
March 21, 2025
Forest Supervisor's Conference Rooms**

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

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

MEETING GOALS:

- Projects Update
- 2025 Forestry Challenge Focus Topic
- OHV Planning Request
- USFS Updates

SUMMARY:

Meeting Opening, Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Liz Peterson opened the meeting and asked for introductions. New member, Tuolumne Biomass, was welcomed.

Projects Update:

Mr. Ben Campbell reported on behalf of Tuolumne River Trust. Because Tuolumne County has provided financial backup, no work has halted because of measures taken by the Administration. SERAL 1.0 Phase 3, part 1 and 2, fuelbreak and fuel reduction work will continue. There are no wood products in Phase 3. The same treatment will take place on federal land and across private lands. Generally, road restoration is done to restore roads to the same shape as prior to the project but they can do a little extra like smooth out ruts, for example. They will be doing surveys in SERAL 2.0 (botanical, archeological and land line). It costs approximately \$50,000 per mile to do land line surveys. There is a shortage nationally of land surveyors. Gaining access is an intense process and they must do vegetation clearance of 3 feet from boundaries. Some boundaries have not been updated since the 1800s. They try to minimize how many land boundary surveys are done through flagging in response to agreements with landowners. Supervisor Jason Kuiken said he doesn't know of any other forest working across boundaries with SPI and private landowners at this scale. Tuolumne County has a single contractor for botanical surveys, and they have made improvements in the botanical survey systems. Marble, North Fork and Westside contracts are in place.

Rim Reforestation will continue. In the Rim footprint there is mosaic planting of around 1,900 acres to plant this year and next. TRT is taking on some of what the Groveland District had planned as the freeze on contracts will affect the USFS's ability to contract and would result in seedling death. They are shifting contracts from temporary employees to the MSA because of the hiring freeze. Half a million seedlings were delivered. Site prep has been slowed because of weather conditions. They will be planting over the next six weeks and then will do release treatments, hand and herbicide. There will be about 7,000-11,000 NEPA approved acres remaining after this planting. Ideally, they should do another round of assessments on the

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remaining acres to document what acres and units are actually feasible vs those that are not feasible because they are too steep, rocky, have poor access, etc.

They are moving from encountering problems to anticipating problems. There are some archeological sites that do not have to be protected but can be shown to not be heritage sites.

They are utilizing an app that allows the USFS to track the progress of projects which makes approval easier and faster. TRT is 95% responsible for contracting maps, which is a cartographic lift. The county received an SNC grant and hired a team to ground proof the data. Mr. Michael Jow suggested adding a time stamp to photos periodically.

2025 Forestry Challenge Focus Topic:

Ms. Diana Dealey Neill provided a presentation. The Championship Event is in the spring on the Stanislaus Forest. There will be about 115 students, and it is scheduled for April 23-25, Wednesday evening through Friday. The topic is, "What to do with Everything Except the Saw Logs." There will also be tours at Ultrapower, Heartwood, and SPI. They are also working with Crook Logging for part of the event. The main question for the students will be, "Do we treat on site or move it somewhere?" They need about 30 volunteers to judge on April 25th. More information about Forestry Challenge is available here: [Forestry Challenge Website](#)

OHV Planning Request:

Mr. Jeb Brooks said he is interested in how to incorporate OHV trail maintenance with fuels management in a grant application. His goal is to increase recreation on the forest. There is also a large demand for mountain biking trails. Supervisor Kuiken said they are trying to utilize existing roads. SNC has recreation funding going out this year looking at co-benefit projects. Mr. Brooks said he will volunteer to help with mapping. Chair Peterson asked Mr. Brooks to send grant opportunities to Mr. Sean Hembre and Ms. Caitlin Henry. This year there will be 11-12 operations going on with fuel reduction, timber harvest, and follow-up mastication.

USFS Updates:

SERAL 1.0 and 2.0 are moving along. Bumble Bee and Punch Bowl timber contracts are in the works. There are areas planned for burning. The Westside fuel reduction project is planned around Tuolumne City and Cottonwood Road. It is currently unfunded for implementation, but an application is in for funding. The G-Z project layout for Dry Meadow and Sour Grass has been done so it will be incorporated into the contract. Road reconstruction design must take place before timber sales.

Transportation grants were awarded to Heartwood, Ultra Power, and Burnbot but are on hold by the Administration.

Yesterday the 3rd Record of Decision (ROD-3) was released, and the objection period is open. This includes 7,500 acres of fuelbreak maintenance with herbicide. You can find more information here: [ROD-3](#) The FS wants fire to be the primary tool, then mastication, then hand treatment, and lastly herbicide. The FS dropped targeted grazing. May 5th the objection period ends.

The SPI fuelbreak project was awarded recently. There is some money for initial fuelbreak implementation and maintenance. There is a national contract for lands that are adjacent to infrastructure and private property. On the Stanislaus Forest there is a proposal for 7,200 acres. Some acres are where there is already a decision in SERAL 2.0 and some are on the Calaveras District. These fuelbreaks will connect to fuelbreaks on SPI property. Money is for forest service lands only. This will amount to about 20 miles of fuelbreaks.

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Mr. Curtis Kvamme provided an updated presentation on the restoration of Ackerson Meadow. They were helped by about 2,900 hours of volunteer work. They restored 200 acres of wetlands and created about 13 acres of habitat for the Western Pond Turtle. They will do the next round of erosion control planting this spring. Yosemite National Park will do long-term monitoring and write up the papers on the project. You can find the presentation here: [Final Ackerson Meadow Presentation 25-3](#)

Next YSS Meeting: May 16, 2025

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members

Name	Organization	Attendance
Jerry Fouts	American Motorcyclist Association, District 36	
Dave Pickett	AMA36/Alternate	
Mike Albrecht	Associated California Loggers	
Vicki Albrecht	ACL	
John Sulkowski	Blue Mountain Minerals	
Lauren Mitchell	BMM/Alternate	
Steve Brink	CA Forestry Assoc., American Forest Resource Council	
Walt Kruse	Central Sierra Audubon Society	Present
Linda Millsbaugh	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	
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	
Dennis Serpa	JE/Alternate	
Jeb Brooks	Mason, Bruce, & Girard Natural Resource Consultants	Present
Chris Shull	MB&G NRC/Alternate	Present
Rubie Teffeteller	MB&G NRC/Alternate	

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Mike Damaso	Merced Dirt Riders/Stanslaus Trail Bike Association, 4x4 in Motion	
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	
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	
Rose Day	Tuolumne Biomass, LLC	Present
Cody Dunlap	Tuolumne Biomass, LLC	
Jaron Brandon	Tuolumne County	
Anaiah Kirk	TC/Alternate	
Liz Peterson	TC/Alternate	Present
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment	Present
Shaun Crook	Tuolumne County Farm Bureau	Present
Jerry McGowan	Tuolumne County Fire Safe Council	
Karen Caldwell	TCFSC/Alternate	Present
Matthew Lun	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	
Lindsay Mattos	TCRCD/Alternate	Present
Diana Beasley	Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council	Present
Laura Hiler	TMWTC/Alternate	
Patrick Koepele	Tuolumne River Trust	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	Present
Nathan Graveline	CDFW/Alternate	
Greg Gerstenberg	CDFW/Alternate	
Joe Meyer	NPS, Yosemite National Park	
Rob Grasso	NPSYNP/Alternate	
Michael Pickard	Sierra Nevada Conservancy	
Jason Kuiken	USFS Stanislaus NF	Present
Beth Martinez	USFS/Alternate	

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Michael Jow	USFS/Alternate	Present
Jim Junette	USFS/Alternate	Present
Brian McCrory	USFS/Alternate	Present
Marcie Easter	USFS/Alternate	
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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OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

Name	Organization
Corinne Hume	Tuolumne County
Sean Hembre	"
Gary Whitson	CAL FIRE
Curtis Kvamme	USFS
Beck Johnson	USFS
Cindy Chandler	Tuolumne BioEnergy
Diane Dealey Neill	Forestry Challenge
PJ Anogrek	Tuolumne River Trust
Alison Mandell	BurnBot
Mike Griffin	Tuolumne County Solid Waste Board