



**Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions
Collaborative General Membership
Meeting Summary
July 18, 2025
Forest Supervisor's Conference Rooms**

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- Quarry and Peak Fires Field Trip
- Presentation by CHIPS

MEETING GOALS:

- Projects Update
- USFS Updates

SUMMARY:

Meeting Opening, Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Liz Peterson opened the meeting and asked for introductions.

Projects Update:

Ms. Ande Meyers, Program Manager for Forest Health at TRT, provided the report. The highlights are as follows:

- SERAL Phase 3 Part 1 Completed 1,137 acres in progress 4,120 (fuelbreaks)
- SERAL Phase 3 Part 2 is being re-posted. Kick-off is anticipated in the next month
- SERAL 2.0 Excelsior upcoming
- Reforestation site preparation is completed on 1,106 acres and 998 acres are in progress
- Using professionals, 536,438 seedlings were planted with another 4,200 trees planted by volunteers, augmenting the USFS
- Manual release was done on 1,961 acres and chemical release on 799 acres
- Landline contractors are in various stages of staking, post marking, and brushing on imminent projects
- Botanical resource surveys in three areas are about 60% complete and data quality control is in process
- Heritage resources initial surveys are ongoing for future projects in SERAL 2.0. Imminent project areas are in the quality control stage
- Cartography is completed for the upcoming Excelsior project and the GIS specialist has visited fuels field sites to refine project processes

Ms. Laura Seefeldt was promoted to Natural Resource Program Manager to oversee the expanding resource survey program. She will also continue managing botany surveys. Two archaeological technicians were also hired.

USFS Updates:

Mr. Brian McCrory provided updates on behalf of the USFS.

Mr. McCrory is the acting deputy forest supervisor. They are waiting on the restructuring plan from the USFS. Individual national forest structures will likely stay the same, but regional offices will change. On the forest, they have lost some critical positions and there is a hiring freeze until

Summary: Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions General Meeting

mid-October. Some lateral reassignments are still being looked at. They have had some support through outside contracts. They still cannot hire temporary employees outside of for fire.

Mr. McCrory said they have some identified projects in response to the EI Portal decision and have an agreement with the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) for the Mokelumne Amador Calaveras (MAC) project. Their project connects with the SERAL project and some implementation funding is allocated to do preliminary work on the landscape such as survey work.

Bumble Bee and Punch Bowl funding was acquired within SERAL 1.0. Solicitation will go out in budget year 2026.

The Regional Leadership Team met recently, and emphasis was around active management of timber and fuels. The national strategy was released, and the forest must prepare a five-year strategy by August including timber targets, stewardship and other longer contracts, emergency authorities, and the new NEPA regulations. They were also told there is more access to state funds if there are multiple benefits from the proposal in an application. They will use receipts from timber sales to do more work, such as biomass removal, within the project that generated the sales. Harvesting 420M board feet by the end of 2028 is the regional target. In 2026 they expect to move from a zone budget to a forest budget.

GSNR Option 2 still holds potential for moving the project forward. This option includes wood chips to feed alternative fuels and potentially a woods project campus in Tuolumne County. The campus could be tested here because of the existing strong collaboration. They would test alternative markets for wood products.

Risk monitoring started with wildfire crisis monitoring. They have some initial outcomes from 2021 and 2024.

Other:

Mr. Sean Hembre reported that the Water Smart Applied Water Grant is looking at two project locations to monitor snowpack, evapotranspiration, and stream flow. They want to demonstrate to downstream users that forest management matters for the watershed. Part of this is an effort to use science to back the economic benefits to watershed management.

Next YSS Meeting: September 19, 2025, Tentative Field Trip

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	
Tom Parrington	CSAS/Alternate	Present
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present
Stan Dodson	CSERC/Alternate	Present
Joanna Portillo-HSU	Chicken Ranch Rancheria of MeWuk Indians	

Summary: Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions General Meeting

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	
Rose Day	Heartwood Biomass	Present
Cody Dunlap	Heartwood Biomass	
Ethan Billigmeier	Hetch Hetchy Water and Power	
Joy Meller	HHWP/Alternate	
Jim Dambacher	James R. Dambacher Construction/Landowner	
Jon Donais	Jamestown Energy	
Dennis Serpa	JE/Alternate	
Jeb Brooks	Mason, Bruce, & Girard Natural Resource Consultants	
Chris Shull	MB&G NRC/Alternate	
Rubie Teffeteller	MB&G NRC/Alternate	
Mike Damaso	Merced Dirt Riders/Stanislaus 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	
	SOS – CUSD/Alternate	
Hannah Grabowski	Sierra Pacific Industries	
Rian Jurado	SPI/Alternate	
Richard Gaiser	SNF Grazing Permittees Association	Present
Robert Wells	TBM-WTC/Alternate	
Etienne Patenaude	Tuolumne BioEnergy	
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	
Jerry McGowan	Tuolumne County Fire Safe Council	
Karen Caldwell	TCFSC/Alternate	Present
Matthew Lun	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	

Summary: Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions General Meeting

Lindsay Mattos	TCRCD/Alternate	Present
Diana Beasley	Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council	Present
Laura Hiler	TMWTC/Alternate	
Patrick Koepele	Tuolumne River Trust	Present
Ande Meyers	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	
Jason Kuiken	USFS Stanislaus NF	
Beth Martinez	USFS/Alternate	
Michael Jow	USFS/Alternate	
Jim Junette	USFS/Alternate	
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	
Pat Laeng	USFS/Alternate	

PARTICIPANTS

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

COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Carolyn Lott	Executive Director	Present
--------------	--------------------	---------

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

Name	Organization
Jeff Hollis	Tuolumne Utilities District
Sean Hembre	Tuolumne County
Jane Braga	League of Women Voters
Brandy McElroy	USFS

Summary: Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions General Meeting

Sherri Brennan	Association of California Loggers
Chantz Joyce	Consulting Forester
Kevin Stuls	Community Member